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OPINION METER

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20 days to go
before the start of
the new fiscal year

INSIDE

BUSINESS



The Las Vegas Strip is getting another over-the-top addition: the world's largest Ferris wheel.

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LIFE & STYLE



A painting that sat in a Norwegian attic for six decades is found to be that of Van Gogh.

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'Flying proa' to retrace route of Spanish galleons. PAGE 2
Republic Party formally invites Inos to rejoin group. PAGE 3

Johnson lawyers' bill: \$36M-plus

BY FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Honolulu-based law firm Bronster Hoshibata, one of the counsels for Betty Johnson, asked the federal court yesterday for attorneys' fees and costs totaling \$17.5 million.

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» **Hawaii law firm asks for \$17.5M**

» **Jorgensen wants at least \$18.6M**

17 items hashed out for today's sessions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

At least 17 specific items and differences between the House and Senate versions of the \$123.4-million budget bill were hashed out by a conference committee recommending passage of

a "compromise" spending package in today's back-to-back sessions of the House and Senate.

A simple majority of the votes in each house is needed to pass the compromise budget bill.

"There are enough votes to pass
See **SESSIONS** on **Page 4**

'We must always remember'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Julie Tudela Lieto, 53, remembers too well how she tried to talk her only son out of deploying to Iraq eight years ago but she understood his reasons. Her son, the late U.S. Army Sgt. Wilgene Lieto, was killed when their patrol vehicle was hit by a bomb in Balad, Iraq, on Oct. 31, 2005.

» **Sept. 11 declared a 'Day of Service and Remembrance'**

"He said it's something he wanted to do. He believed in putting people and the country first before him. He was trained to help out to secure peace. I am very much proud of my son," Lieto, of Tanapag, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Lieto was one of the CNMI's sons and daughters who paid the ultimate sacrifice as part of the War on Terror that started with the terror attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, exactly 12 years ago today.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said over the course of the past 12 years, the CNMI has since laid to rest its hometown heroes.

"They were sons and daughters of the Northern Mariana Islands, but more importantly, they are brave soldiers and defenders of our freedom. Truly, they will never be forgotten. ... We must remember every brave man and woman who died in honor. We must remember every family that still lives in grief. We must always remember," the governor said in a

statement yesterday.

The governor will sign this morning a proclamation declaring Sept. 11, 2013, a "Day of Service and Remembrance" to honor the lives and memories of those who perished in the attacks.

The CNMI has already lost 18 of its own since the War Against Terror. Some of them were still in their teens or in their early 20s when they were deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

For the families of these soldiers from the CNMI, Sept. 11, 2001, should not only be about the terror attacks and their victims but also those who lost their lives to help preserve freedom for the people of the United States, its territories and other nations—long after 9-11.

The proud mother of the late Army sergeant Lieto said she and the family have made it a point to join the annual

See **REMEMBER** on **Page 4**

In this Sept. 11, 2001, file photo, the twin towers of the World Trade Center burn behind the Empire State Building in New York.

AP



Local

‘Flying proa’ to retrace route of Spanish galleons

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A 47-foot replica of a “flying proa,” or sakman in Chamorro, built by a group of Chamorros in California will retrace the route sailed by Spanish galleons during the Spanish Acapulco-Manila trade from the 1600s to 1800s.

Master carver Mario Reyes Borja made this announcement during the Rotary Club of Saipan’s weekly meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Borja, who was born in Chalan Kanoa and has degrees in aerospace engineering and as-

trodynamics, said his nine-man crew originally planned a sea route that would take them from San Diego to Hawaii first, then Hawaii to the Marianas. However, after some careful thought, the *Sakman* Project decided to retrace the Acapulco-Manila route of the Spanish galleon, which made the Marianas the pit stop of the long journey.

Borja said this route is more appropriate because of the islands’ cultural and historical ties to Spain. Like Acapulco and Mexico in general, Saipan and Guam were former Spanish colonies.

He said the more southern

route has the added bonus of the flying proa being in sight of land during its first couple of days sailing to Acapulco.

Using the northern equatorial current will bring the *sakman* and its crew first to Marshall Islands and from there they will proceed to Guam where they will finish their 7,600-nautical mile ocean journey.

Borja shared that the idea of building a *sakman* based on the detailed drawings of a flying proa by the HMS *Centurion*, a British warship captained by Lord George Anson, in 1742 was planted in him by his men-

tor, Carlos P. Taitano.

After graduating from 2- and 8-foot models, the Sakman Project finally got hold of a giant redwood tree from the forests of Mendocino, California in 2009 and a year later construction of the flying proa began.

With the use of traditional tools and some power tools courtesy of Home Depot, Borja and company labored for a year and finally in 2010 the replica of the flying proa made its initial sea trials at San Diego Bay.

Borja said the *Sakman* Project not only owes to Lord Anson the preservation of the design

for the flying proa, but his words recorded in the *Centurion*’s log also served as an inspiration to Borja and his crew.

“These Indians are no ways defective in understanding, for their flying proas in particular, which during ages past have been the only vessels employed by them, are so singular and extraordinary an invention that it would do honour to any nation, however dexterous and acute, since, if we consider the aptitude of this proa to the navigation of these islands, which lying all of them nearly under the same meridian, and with the limits of the trade wind, require the vessels made use of in passing from one to the other to be particularly fitted for sailing

with the wind upon the beam; or if we examine the uncommon simplicity and ingenuity of its fabric and contrivance, or the extraordinary velocity with which it moves, we shall in each of these articles, find it worthy of our admiration, and deserving a place amongst the mechanical productions of the most civilised nations where arts and sciences have most eminently flourished...” reads a passage from Lord Anson’s “Voyage Around The World.”

Borja said that Lord Anson’s words have served as the Sakman Project’s “fuel in our blood, fire within our hearts” in their effort to revive the flying proa.

He said everyone in the Marianas should take pride in the flying proa because during its time it was the fastest sea-going vessel, with top speeds of as much as 20 knots.

FBI special agent: 100-percent sure ex-GF identified Crisostomo’s voice

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Special agent Joseph Auther of the Federal Bureau of Investigation testified yesterday that he is 100-percent sure that the former girlfriend of Joseph A. Crisostomo identified the latter as the other voice in the 911 call that bartender Emerita Romero made before she was murdered.

Auther, who used to be assigned on Saipan and is now with the FBI in Colorado, testified via Skype during a hearing in the Superior Court on Crisostomo’s motion to suppress all testimony regarding pretrial identification of the suspect.

Police detective Elias Saralu and Crisostomo’s former girlfriend of 17 years also testified.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho later placed the motion under advisement.

In Crisostomo’s motion to suppress, defense counsel Janet H. King argued that the FBI’s identification procedure in the investigation of Romero’s case was “unduly suggestive.”

King said that Crisostomo’s former girlfriend and her male companion were told the purpose of the meeting would be to discuss Crisostomo.

In response to questions by assistant attorney general Brian Flaherty and King, Auther explained the circumstances that led him and Department of Public Safety police officers to play Romero’s 911 call to Crisostomo’s former girlfriend at the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau office on Capital Hill on Feb. 17, 2012.

Auther said that when the ex-girlfriend heard the male voice in the recording, she reacted and identified Crisostomo.

The special agent said other police officers who also heard the voice recognized it as that of Crisostomo’s.

Auther said the male voice

was trying to calm down Romero using a word that he (Auther) understood at that time was “silent.” Auther said he found the word weird, so he asked the ex-girlfriend to listen to that particular term in the recording.

The agent said the former girlfriend explained that the word was actually “sorry”—a word that Crisostomo would often use after beating her up when they were still together.

Auther described listening to the 911 call as “chilling, very disturbing.”

Auther agreed with Flaherty that playing the 911 call for the former girlfriend for identification was one of the available investigative tools at that time to make sure that they were “on the right track.”

He said that playing the recording for the former girlfriend was something that needed to be done as it would confirm that they were “on the right track.”

Responding to King’s questions, Auther disclosed that the 911 recording was later played for Crisostomo’s sister during the investigators’ search of her house. Auther said the sister listened to the recording and said the voice was that of another person, not Crisostomo’s.

The agent stated, however, that the sister’s answers to their questions appeared untruthful. He said the sister appeared to be upset, unhappy, and that she was making some demands.

Investigators learned that the sister was the one who rented the car, which Crisostomo allegedly drove and where Romero was last seen boarding in Garapan in the early morning of Feb. 5, 2012. FBI agents, including Auther, found Romero’s body two days later at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque.

Auther disclosed that a strand of Romero’s hair was found inside the car.



Governor Eloy S. Inos



Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider

Håfa adai, Tirow wáámi

In the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, thousands of miles from the events that occurred in the mainland United States twelve years ago, we join millions of our fellow Americans citizens and many others throughout the world in commemorating the epic tragedies of September 11, 2001.

When we secured our Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, we pledged our loyalty to the United States and to the principles upon which this great country was founded: freedom, democracy, constitutional government, economic opportunity, and free enterprise. And when the United States was brutally attacked on September 11, 2001, our entire Commonwealth also felt the terrible loss and the enormity of the tragedy, and we rallied behind our nation in a moment of crisis.

As we commemorate the events of September 11, 2001, we reflect on the lives lost on that day and the consequences of a post 9/11 world and the implications for our small communities in the Northern Marianas. We also remain committed to preserving the ideal of a free society with economic opportunity, while still protecting our national security.

ELOY S. INOS

JUDE U. HOFSCHEIDER

Republic Party formally invites Inos to rejoin group

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Jack P. Villagomez, president of the Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Association, sent Monday a letter to the Covenant Party's titular head, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, inviting him to rejoin his former political party.

The Inos campaign team has yet to decide on the GOP's invitation for the governor and the rest of the Covenant Party membership to reunify with the Republicans.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) earlier called on Inos, former Covenant Party members, Independent Republicans, and independents to reunite with the GOP and make it a "stronger" party.

Inos, for his part, said Torres is among a handful of individuals he is considering as running mate in 2014, when he seeks a full four-year gubernatorial term.

But Inos said one can't

MacREL board chooses to hold annual directors' meet in CNMI

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

An international education research think-tank is set to hold its annual board of directors' conference in the Commonwealth next week, a first for the group.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan disclosed that the Mid-Continent Regional Educational Laboratory, or McREL, has informed the school system that the organization has voted to conduct its annual directors' meeting on island after hearing all the news about the Commonwealth.

"The reason why they have chosen Saipan PSS [as the venue of its annual directors' meeting] is because of all the stories they hear about us and they wanted to come here and visit our public schools," said Sablan, adding that school principals have been notified about this visit next week.

At a recent Pacific Education Conference held on island, McREL CEO Dr. Tim Waters expressed amazement at the progress shown by the CNMI school system in meeting the educational needs of its schoolchildren. He praised the Board of Education and the PSS leadership team for inspiring other jurisdictions' education system.

McREL is a private education research and development corporation whose mission is "to make a difference in the quality of education and learning for all through excellence in applied research, product development, and service."

Since 1966, the organization has grown to more than



Inos

have a running mate that runs under a different political party, and this has to be resolved first before proceeding with formal announcements about a possible tandem in the 2014 elections.

Villagomez, in his Sept. 9 letter, said they welcome all leaders and constituents to join the Republican Party regardless of prior affiliation.

"It is in this spirit that we are proud to recognize your contribution and leadership in

the company's Denver, Colorado, headquarters. According to Sablan, all 12 members of the board of directors are slated to be on island for three days, from Sept. 17 through 19, and a tour of CNMI public schools is among the group's agenda.

According to the McREL website, its board of directors is composed of Judy Richards, Michael Middleton, Mickey Bogart, Tim Waters, C. Patrick Woods, Sue Desch, Ken Anderson, Debbie Backus, Mike Ceballos, and Jim Edwards. These members are educators, business people, and policymakers who are responsible for guiding the work of the organization and ensuring it is responsive to the needs of educators throughout the country.

PSS has been tapping the services of McREL for professional development and institutes for public school leaders and employees for several years now.

Sablan said the group is expected to arrive on Sept. 17 and plans to meet the education board the next day, along with their visit to schools. The actual directors' meeting is slated on Sept. 19.

Also on Sunday, Sept. 15, PSS expects to welcome 75 students and school staffers from a Japanese university for the group's annual cultural and exchange program with Marianas High School. A welcome reception is slated at 4pm at the MHS campus.

government services and as a longtime Republican. We are formulating a database for our Republican membership and we would appreciate if you could fill out and return the attached membership form," Villagomez told Inos in his one-page letter, a copy of which was obtained yesterday.

The GOP held a general membership meeting on July 31 to reorganize. Villagomez was elected to replace former governor Benigno R. Fitial as GOP president.

"Our people want change within the Republican Party and government. What we do today will have a long lasting impact on our people and our islands. We are determined to work hard to meet the chal-

lenges that we face so that we can bring a better future for our Commonwealth," Villagomez added.

Separately, Covenant Party members and Independent Republicans have been

scheduled to meet this week to tackle the GOP's invitation for them to rejoin the Republican Party. But most of them said they are still considering the invitation.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-

Saipan), for his part, said he remains with the "Independent Republicans."

Besides Inos, former House speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider is also a possible candidate for governor in 2014.

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We'd like to pay tribute to our Dad who would be celebrating his birthday this month if he was still with us. We are proud to have followed in his footsteps and strive to continue his tradition for superior, personalized care for all patients.

235-2030

2 men allegedly used minors to steal items from store

Two men allegedly used three juveniles to repeatedly steal several items from a store in Chalan Kanoa.

Alexander Cabrera Duenas, 24, and Flare Ngirutoi, 18, were taken to Superior Court yesterday on charges of theft, conspiracy, and receiving stolen property.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$20,000 cash bail each for the two's temporary release.

LAWYERS

From Page 1

Attorney Bruce Jorgensen, Johnson's first and ongoing counsel, also requested for approval of his costs in the amount of \$4,643.17. Jorgensen was not very specific on his attorney's fees, but *Saipan Tribune's* computation with the help of a lawyer showed that he was asking for either \$18.6 million, \$29.6 million, or \$38.9 million.

Attorney Stephen C. Woodruff, Johnson's local counsel, has yet to file his petition for costs and attorney's fees.

Attorneys Margery S. Bronster and Robert M. Hatch of the Bronster Hoshibata law firm asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to direct the CNMI government to pay them \$5 million upon final approval of the settlement agreement; \$5 million at the start of fiscal year 2015; and \$2.5 million at the start of fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018. This would bring their attorneys' fees to a total of \$17.5 million.

While Jorgensen was clear about his costs that he wants paid (\$4,643.17), his request for attorney's fees was more ambiguous. He requested compensation for 3,825.9 hours of professional services at a rate of \$325 per hour, in a cumulative base amount of \$1,243,417.50, with application of a lodestar analysis with a multiplier of 15.

If \$1.2 million is multiplied by 15, the total amount is \$18,651,262.

As an alternative, Jorgensen asked for an award of attorney fees for 3,825.9 hours of professional services, "with application of a percentage-of-fund analysis, based on a percentage amount of 5 percent of the benefit conferred upon the class." He did not specify the total amount.

A lawyer who requested not to be identified said that Jorgensen was not clear about the amount in the "benefit conferred upon the class."

The lawyer, who assisted *Saipan Tribune*, said that Jorgensen was not specific whether the "benefit conferred" refers to \$591,219,229 that the Bronster law firm indicated in its application or the \$779 million indicated as a default judgment whenever the CNMI government fails to pay its obligations under the settlement agreement.

Five percent of \$591,219,229

Police detective Patrick George stated in his report that Duenas and Ngirutoi and three other juveniles stole two digital cameras, two Nintendo DS, and one PS Vita game—all worth \$1,594.98—and an undetermined amount of cash from Bobby Market.

George said footage of the surveillance camera showed that one suspect would distract the store's cashier while

is \$29,560,961.45, while 5 percent of \$779 million is \$38,950,000.

Under the settlement agreement, the CNMI government agreed to pay Johnson's attorneys' fees and costs, and a \$7,500 service award for bringing the lawsuit on behalf of other class members.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood preliminarily approved on Aug. 6 the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action against the NMI Retirement Fund and the CNMI government.

A hearing on Johnson's motion for final approval of the settlement agreement will be held on Sept. 30, 2013. The hearing on her petition for approval of attorneys' fees and costs will be on that same day.

In Bronster Hoshibata's petition, Hatch stated that the value of the benefit obtained for the class by the settlement is at least \$591,219,229.

Under a percentage-of-the-fund approach, Hatch said that 5 percent of this amount is \$29,560,961.45.

"Given that 25 percent is the benchmark for percentage-of-the-fund awards, this would be well below a reasonable fee for all class counsel," the lawyer said.

He said that if the court were to determine that Bronster's contribution to the benefit provided to the class were only half of this already very low percentage, it would still be \$14,780,480.70.

In the alternative, Hatch said, Bronster's lodestar is \$1,002,678.13 plus \$50,861.06 in out-of-pocket costs.

"Given the enormous risk undertaken in this case and the excellent results for the class, Bronster believes that a multiplier of 15 is very reasonable. Under the lodestar analysis, this yields a reasonable fee for Bronster of \$15,091,033.01," Hatch said.

Instead of being paid either of these amounts, however, Hatch said that Bronster believes that the current fiscal condition of the CNMI makes a payment over time more feasible.

Consequently, Hatch said, Bronster requests that the court order the CNMI government to pay Bronster \$5 million upon final approval; \$5 million at the start of fiscal year 2015; and \$2.5 million at the start of the next three fiscal years.

the other suspects would steal the items.

The store's owner discovered the theft when she came

back from an off-island trip on July 29, 2013, and discovered some items missing. She then reviewed the footage of their

Lawsuit claims vs Hardt Eye Clinic dismissed

The federal court dismissed yesterday the claims against the Hardt Eye Clinic in a medical malpractice lawsuit filed by a man who lost the sight of his right eye after an accident from bush cutting in 2010.

U. S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed with prejudice all of Thomas M. Deleon

Guerrero's claims against Hardt Eye Clinic and Drs. David Hardt and Donald Hardt.

Dismissal with prejudice means the case cannot be re-opened.

Manglona ordered the dismissal after Deleon Guerrero, Hardt Eye Clinic, and the Hardts agreed to drop all claims.

REMEMBER

From Page 1

march commemorating the sacrifices and heroism born out of the 9-11 attacks.

"We always remember him, my son. He would have been 36 this year," she said. The late Lieto was already serving in the military since 1999, the mother said.

Lieto was not the only one from the CNMI who lost his life in Iraq on that fateful day of Oct. 31, 2005, while on patrol mission. The other one was U.S. Army Spc. Derence Jack.

Both left the CNMI for a one-year tour of duty in Iraq in January 2005, but they never came back to their families alive.

Retired police sergeant Joel G. Charfauros of Rota separately said yesterday that every time he sees images of the 9-11 attacks and its aftermath, he wished it didn't have to happen.

"I wish we never had the 9-11 incidents. My brother and many others would have been spending their holidays and other special occasions with their families," he said.

He still misses his younger brother, the late Army Spc. Joe

Junior G. Charfauros, one of four U.S. soldiers killed on June 20, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq because of injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device that blew off near their vehicle.

"Everyone in the family never forgets about him, especially with lots of questions still unanswered. We are all proud of him. We will never forget him," the retired police sergeant said.

He said on the sixth anniversary of his brother's death in June, the family held a Mass of intention for him and had dinner together.

"We also visited his gravesite, letting him know he's never forgotten," the older brother said.

And now with talks about a possible U.S. military involvement in Syria, he said no matter what ordinary U.S. citizens think, "the decision still rests with those in Washington, D.C." "All we could do is hope and pray that our already strained and drained military forces won't have to be involved in another conflict," he added.

Annie G. Charfauros, the 59-year-old mother of the late Charfauros, said yesterday her son decided to join the military mainly to support his family. At

surveillance camera and saw the suspects stealing the items on July 23, 2013.

The owner also learned that three days before that incident, the same group also stole some items from the store.

The judge ordered each party to bear their own costs, expenses, and fees incurred in the case.

In May 2013, Manglona approved a settlement agreement in the case after finding that it is in the best interest of Deleon Guerrero and that the settlement amount is reasonable.

The parties' lawyers disclosed in court papers that the payment of \$48,000 to Deleon Guerrero is a good settlement as

Police detective George said Ngirutoi and three juveniles admitted during separate police interviews that they indeed stole some items from the store, sold the items, and split the cash. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

it guarantees a substantial sum from StayWell.

Guerrero was reportedly a covered dependent under a Certificate of Group Health Plan Coverage with StayWell held by the plaintiff's wife, Oliva.

Deleon Guerrero was clearing brush on March 17, 2010 when he slipped, lost his balance, and struck a tree with his right eye. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

glona (Oct. 9, 2008), Air Force SrA Audra P.M. Winkfield (June 19, 2009), Marine Cpl. Dave Michael Maliksi Santos (July 16, 2010), Sgt. George Joseph Affatica Sablan (Feb. 10, 2012), Marine Lance Cpl Ramon Taisakan Kaipat (April 11, 2012), U.S. Army Spc Joselyn Tara Mafnas Sablan (Sept. 20, 2012), and U.S. Army Spc Robert Jason Santos Deleon Guerrero (Sept. 23, 2012).

The governor, in a statement yesterday, said the CNMI offers its solemn prayers to all the innocent victims and rescuers who perished in the incidents that took place on Sept. 1, 2001.

"The events following the 9-11 attacks led to America's War on Terror in battlegrounds such as Iraq and Afghanistan. Already considered as one of the longest wars in our nation's history, the battle continues till this day," Inos said.

He said on the 12th anniversary of the attacks, he and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider urge everyone in the CNMI "to join us in remembering the courage, valor and sacrifice of all our men and women who continue to be in harm's way so that each one of us can continue to embrace the virtues of freedom and liberty."

The others are: Army Sgt. Brian S. Leon Guerrero (July 10, 2008), Army SSgt. Julian F. Man-

ferred 25 percent defined benefit restoration fund account, as a result of a tentatively approved NMI Retirement Fund settlement agreement.

The conferees agreed to allocate the \$1.4 million Commonwealth Worker Funds as follows: \$500,000 for the Public School System, \$500,000 for Northern Marianas College, and \$400,000 for the Northern Marianas Trade Institute or other appropriate job training program.

The panel also settled for a \$4.392 million-plus budget for the Judiciary; \$3.471 million-plus for the Department of Corrections; \$432,528 for the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library; and \$123,744 for the Veterans Affairs Office.

Conferees also compromised on a \$5.510 million budget for Rota, and \$5.916 million budget for Tinian.

If both chamber pass the conference committee-recommended budget bill, it will be on its way to the governor's desk some two weeks before the Oct. 1 start of fiscal year 2014.

full-time equivalent positions, and giving the governor authority to reprogram up to 50 percent of the budget to be able to fund the annual \$200,000 La Fiesta land lease deal.

But based on the conference committee report signed late Monday afternoon, other items were discussed and compromised on, and some of them were at the administration's request.

The six-member conference committee, for example, gave the Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary 100 percent reprogramming authority over funds allocated to the Division of Parks and Grounds in the event that the division is not privatized.

Taimanao said the conferees agreed to "give and take" to come up with a budget bill they hope could pass both houses.

The conferees include House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

SESSIONS

From Page 1

the bill in the House," House Ways and Means Committee chair Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. Sablan is the lead conferee from the House, with Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) leading the Senate conferees.

House Speaker Joe Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) convened a leadership meeting yesterday afternoon in preparation for today's 1:30pm session, whose main objective is to take up the fiscal year 2014 budget.

The six-member panel compromised on six "highly debated" differences in the House and Senate versions, such as the decentralized government utilities account, the reinstatement of \$2 million to the Department of Public Lands for homesteads, restoration of \$200,000 to the Marianas Visitors Authority, giving the governor extra 50

At the administration's request and after deliberation, the conference committee agreed to increase the salary cap for the Finance secretary to "up to \$60,000" per annum and the Commerce secretary, "up to \$54,000" per annum.

Sablan said this is only applicable for 2014. He said a similar provision in the 2013 budget law expires on Sept. 30 so they had to include a similar provision in the conference committee version.

Another provision that the conferees compromised on relates to any lapsed funds from the Office of the Public Auditor's fee of 1 percent of the total appropriations for each government agency's operations and activities.

Any lapsed funds from this will be applied first to the utility payments for the Tinian and Rota Liaison Patient Guest Houses, in the event of a utility funding shortfall for these specific entities within the respective municipalities' budget.

Any remaining balance, meanwhile, applies to the de-

Mock evaluator: Many good things happening at NMC

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Dr. Pam Fisher, the external evaluator that recently did a mock evaluation of the Northern Marianas College, found many positive things happening at the institution—all key to meeting the requirements and standards of the accreditation commission.

"It is apparent that many good things are happening at the college, from career and technical education to certificates and degrees and its extensive baccalaureate degree programs in education. Staff, faculty, and administrators are committed to their students," said Fisher yesterday, adding that it was also readily apparent that NMC is absolutely vital to the community.

As part of its accreditation efforts, NMC went through an evaluation visit from Aug. 26 to 30 to prepare its employees for the accreditation team visit that will occur after the submission of NMC's show-cause report on Oct. 15.

Fisher is part of the Association of Community College Trustees and is a former community college president, chancellor, and chairperson of visiting teams from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

As part of her preparation prior to visiting NMC, Fisher corresponded and met with NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart and accreditation liaison officer Amanda Allen. She also reviewed the college's accreditation history

and the external evaluation team report from 2012.

Also, since governance was one of the major issues that NMC was asked to address, she reviewed many internal governance procedures, including the bylaws of the College Council, Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and Student Senate.

While at NMC, Fisher noted that "the professionalism and hospitality demonstrated [by the college community] was precisely what should occur when the accreditation visiting team is on campus in late October."

"A huge amount of work has occurred in order to resolve the issues around the two eligibility requirements and the eight recommendations made by the ACCJC in their action letter that led to the college's status of being on show-cause," Fisher noted. "It also is true that significant work still remains to be done that must be completed well and expeditiously."

"In the next weeks and months the college community would be wise to focus on moving forward by implementing and following the new policies and procedures. ... At the same time, the college community should identify ways to heal old wounds, improve communication, and come together with a unified shared vision for NMC."

Meeting the regents

Fisher met with the Board of Regents on three occasions, each focusing on different topics that included best practices

for effective governance, accreditation expectations, and preparation for interviews with the visiting team.

"Throughout all meetings with regents, the urgency of getting the new policies adopted and implemented was stressed. It will be especially critical that the Board of Regents has completed its adoption of all the new policies and that it can demonstrate it has implemented those related to board organization," she said.

Fisher also held two open forums with the campus community. She acknowledged at the meeting that "some of the changes to longstanding practices had been hard to make and hurtful to some people who were still angry about

them." However, she commended the college leadership for working diligently with affected faculty to find alternative assignments and to offer support that would help them meet the new standards.

Fisher reassured college community members that what seem like radical changes are actually common best practices and "are absolutely essential" to the college remaining accredited.

"They were not out of the ordinary at all and not the idea of any one administrator," said Fisher. She cited the new minimum hiring qualifications and the policy on honorary regents.

Fisher also met with all the standard teams at the college and gave them advice on the

content of their narratives as well as suggestions for formatting their sections.

According to Hart, Fisher provided much needed help and guidance as the college community prepares for the

submission of its show-cause report and upcoming visit.

"We are now reviewing the results of her assessment and sharing that across the campus to see how we can better prepare," said Hart.



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CHC urged to expand services to capture revenue it is losing

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is being urged not only to expand its hospital services but to promote them among islanders so it could capture the revenue it loses from patients who continue to seek medical checkups off-island.

According to Staywell Insurance general manager on Saipan Eric Plinske, the federal Affordable Care Act offers great opportunities for the Commonwealth Health Center that will boost its much-needed revenues.

Plinske said the new healthcare law requires preventive health services, which refer to the annual exams of patients that are fully paid for by private insurance companies.

"To be honest, most or all of our clients want to get their annual exam off-island...because they don't want to do it here. And you guys can make money out of that 100 percent that we insurance companies pay for these patients," Plinske

told the corporation board at a recent meeting.

With a checklist of the types of exams and tests conducted by private clinics off-island, Plinske is convinced that CHC—with the right motivation—can also offer and make available similar tests.

He admitted that many patients have some "trust issues" with the capability of the public hospital, which is also grappling with an "image problem."

But once the hospital shows readiness to offer these services, "we can convince the population to take it here...and that will translate to a big revenue stream for CHC," Plinske said.

CHCC board chair Joaquin Torres said this issue "is not lost to the members and we may be addressing it soon. Our current priority is to focus our attention and resources on the CMS conditions of participation, and once we are cleared by CMS, we need to ensure we maintain certification, and continue to have a sustainable operation."



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FROM \$7.7M LOSSES LAST YEAR

CUC expects losses at \$2M by end of this fiscal year

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. expects to incur a significantly lower deficit by the end of this fiscal year this month.

The agency's chief financial officer, Charles Warren, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that CUC is projected to post only about \$2 million in operating losses in fiscal year 2013, which will end on Sept. 30, 2013.

Warren described this forecast deficit as much lower than what the utilities corporation recorded in fiscal year 2012, totaling \$7.7 million.

Data obtained by *Saipan*

Tribune show that in the first nine months of the fiscal year, from October through June, CUC posted operating revenue of \$75.064 million against the agency's operating expenditures of \$76.449 million in the same period. For these months alone, the utilities corporation incurred losses totaling \$1.385 million.

According to Warren, from October to June this year CUC recorded a gain of \$1,368,231 from operating the power facility. However, in the same period CUC registered losses of \$2,072,315 in operations for water and \$681,215 in operating the wastewater facility. This re-

sulted in operating losses totaling \$1,385,299 in nine months.

In fiscal year 2012, CUC experienced losses in all three facilities: losses incurred for power operation totaled \$2,609,008; losses for water operations was at \$3,135,092; and for wastewater operation, \$1,975,975. These resulted in overall operating losses of \$7.7 million in the 12-month period.

According to Warren, CUC averaged monthly operating revenues of \$8.3 million in fiscal year 2013.

CUC is an autonomous agency that heavily depends on its revenues and collection from utility customers. At present,

there is a rate petition filed by the agency before the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission that, if approved, will take effect on Oct. 1.

Warren said this petition is for base rates only and does not contain a request to increase the fuel charge, at least for now.

A customer's bill is composed of the electric base rate, which deals with the non-fuel expenses, and the levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC, which pertains to the fuel cost of the agency.

CUC's fuel charge, which includes LEAC and water and wastewater electric charges, are directly tied to world markets

and account for 65 percent of costs for operating the power, water, and wastewater systems.

The Public Utilities Commission has yet to schedule a hearing for the rate petition.

Acting CUC executive director Alan Fletcher earlier said that despite the multiple progresses of the island's utilities agency, the corporation still has a long way to go before it can become a modern sustainable utility.

He revealed that CUC has

long been an underfunded utility and nearly collapsed in 2008-2009. Since 2006, the agency has accumulated over \$74 million in operating losses.

According to Fletcher, in order to develop the best solution for the CNMI utility situation, CUC will be completing a series of plans and proposals designed to determine what base-load generation and renewable energy opportunities are commercially available and cost-effective.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement No. 13-033

POSITION TITLE: Counselor (Disability Support Services)
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 – 32/12
Annual Salary: \$28,803.12 – \$45,632.49
Location: **As Terlaje Campus, Saipan**
Opening Date: 09/04/2013 Closing Date: 09/19/2013

Announcement No. 13-034

POSITION TITLE: Personnel Specialist I-II
Pay Level & Step: 24/01 – 26/12
Annual Salary: \$17,689.31 – \$32,539.26
Location: **As Terlaje Campus, Saipan**
Opening Date: 09/04/2013
Closing Date: 09/19/2013

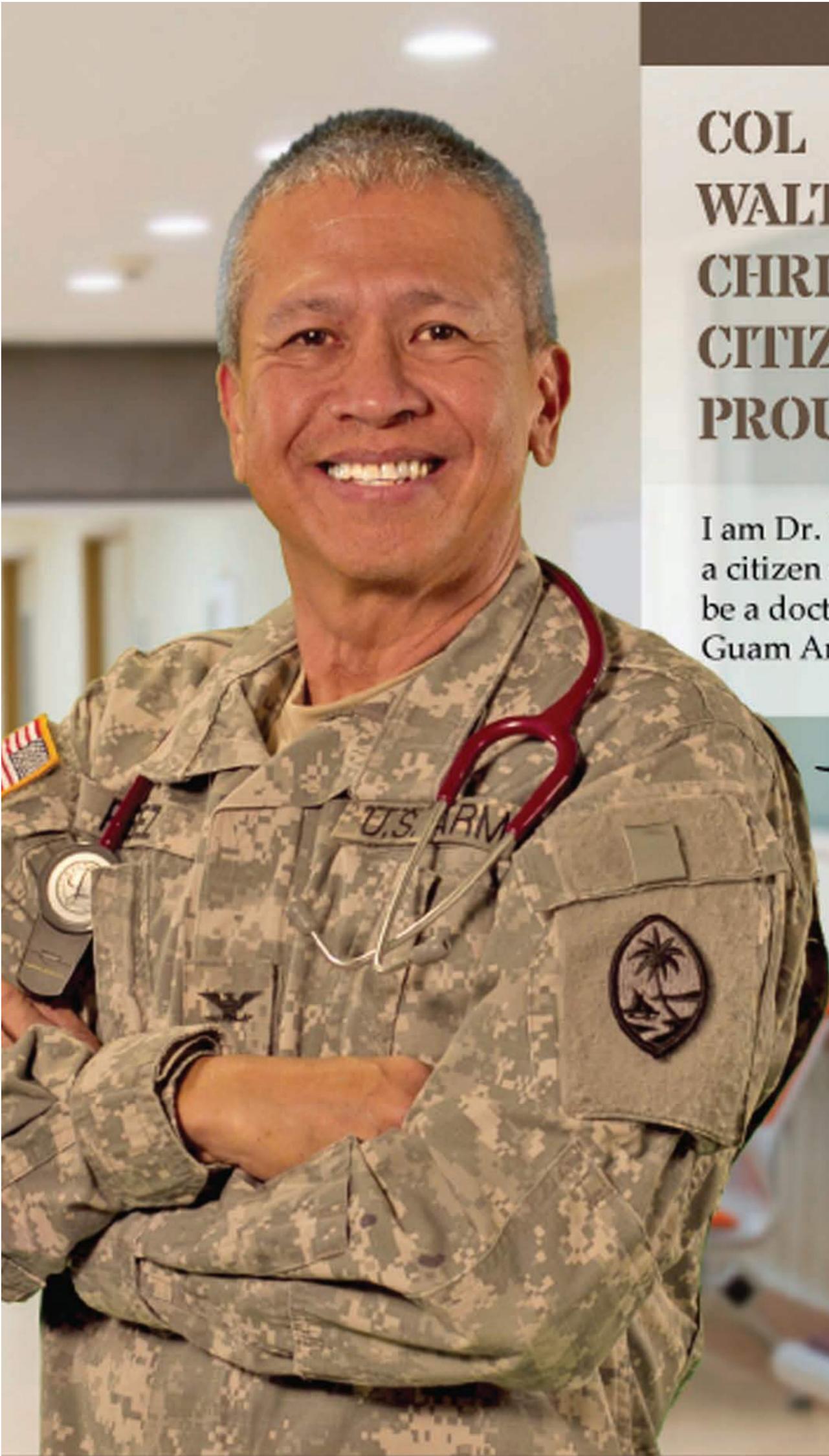
Announcement No. 13-035

POSITION TITLE: Executive Director, NMC Foundation (Half-time)
Pay Level & Step: Ungraded
Hourly Wage: \$24.03 – \$28.84
Location: **As Terlaje Campus, Saipan**
Opening Date: 9/10/2013
Closing Date: 9/25/2013
Pending availability of funds

Announcement No. 13-036

POSITION TITLE: Executive Secretary II, NMC Foundation (Half-time)
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 – 32/08
Hourly Wage: \$12.37 – \$17.12
Location: **As Terlaje Campus, Saipan**
Opening Date: 9/10/2013
Closing Date: 9/25/2013
Pending availability of funds

Applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. Advertised salary range represents the first step in the lowest applicable grade through the last step in the highest applicable grade. Annual salary upon initial appointment will generally be the first step in the applicable grade based upon education and experience. A higher step within the applicable grade, up to Step 12, may be selected in the event the College experiences difficulty in recruiting. All salaries are subject to availability of funds.



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HBO movie on obesity to be shown at JKPL today

Movie Day today at the Children's Library will be extra special, as the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be teaming up with the Let's Move Marianas Campaign to show *Weight of the Nation* from 4pm to 5:30pm.

Weight of the Nation is a four-part documentary series, each featuring case studies, interviews with America's leading experts, and individuals and their families struggling with obesity.

The first film, *Consequences*, examines the scope of the obesity epidemic and explores the serious health consequences of being overweight or obese.

The second, *Choices*, offers viewers the skinny on fat, revealing what science has shown about how to lose weight, maintain weight loss, and prevent weight gain.

The third, *Children in Crisis*, documents the damage obesity is doing to America's children. Through individual stories, the film describes how the strong forces at work in our society are causing children to consume too many calories and expend too little energy; tackling subjects from school lunches to the decline of physical education, the demise of school re-

cess and the marketing of unhealthy food to children.

The fourth film, *Challenges*, examines the major driving forces causing the obesity epidemic, including agriculture, economics, evolutionary biology, food marketing, racial and socioeconomic disparities, physical inactivity, American food culture, and the strong influence of the food and beverage industry.

The library's cultural activities also continues on Saturday, Sept. 14. AmeriCorps volunteers will take charge of the state library's Read Aloud program this Saturday and they will be reading one of the four-part Eagle Book Series *Through the Eyes of the Eagle* by Georgia Perez.

Cultural activities at the library run from 12pm to 2pm every Saturday and is in partnership with the CNMI Humanities Motherhead Program through a Department of Community and Cultural Affairs grant.

JKPL's ukulele classes will start tomorrow, Sept. 12, from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. Classes will be held every Thursday thereafter from 4:30pm to 5:30 until Oct. 31. The ukulele class will be conducted by Larry Lee and costs \$50. (*Saipan Tribune*)

UFO to receive passport applications Sunday

The United Filipino Organization will start receiving passport applications it will endorse to the Philippine Consulate General in Guam this Sunday, Sept. 15.

The umbrella organization of Filipino groups on Saipan will hold the passport application at the back of the TSL Plaza in Garapan from 1pm to 4pm.

Those who are applying for new passports or renewals should bring a copy of their old passport. They will also be required to fill up an application form.

For more information about UFO's passport application day, text UFO president Annamae Adaza at 4835237 or call her after 5pm.

Sunday's activity is in advance of the mobile outreach consular services the Philippine Consulate General will hold on Saipan from Oct. 7 to 10 at the Daidai Social Hall of the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Among the services that will be offered are passport processing, notaries, contract verification, civil registration, and acceptance of dual citizenship applications.

Aside from submitting documents to UFO this Sunday, there are two other ways to apply for a passport. The first one is through pre-processing and the other one is through appointment.

Due to limitations in its passport data-capturing capabilities,

only 60 applications will be accepted for pre-processing and only 50 applications for passport appointments.

Those opting for the pre-processing procedure should email a copy of their passport, application form, and other important documents like marriage certificate, report of birth, or report of marriage to saipan.pcgagana@gmail.com.

The consulate general is now accepting pre-processing applications until 5pm on Sept. 24. Applications submitted after 5pm on Sept. 24 will not be accepted and will not be given a schedule.

Those without Internet access who wish to apply or renew their passports can do so by setting an appointment with the consulate general by calling 682-2222 until 5pm on Sept. 24. Ask for Margie Morales and give her details like one's full name, date of birth, passport expiration, and contact number.

The consulate general is also reminding everyone that only 200 will be given appointments for ePassport. Those who want to apply for passports should call or sign up as early as possible.

For questions or clarifications regarding the mobile consular outreach, call the consulate general at its toll free number, 682-2222. (*Saipan Tribune*)

From the management and staff of

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Saipan Tribune

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Kilili Beach, pavilion to get facelift

Coastal Resources Management will be hosting a beach cleanup and pavilion beautification event at Kilili Beach on Satur-

day, Sept. 14, starting at 9:30am for Coastal Month. CRM staff, Let's Move Marianas, and MINA will be repainting the pa-

vilions and cleaning the beach.

Kilili Beach is a great place for a barbecue, a swim, or even an outrigger canoe race. It is a

popular location for locals and tourists alike and is due for a facelift. Come help us repaint all the pavilions in bright col-

ors and island themes as well as remove litter and marine debris. By keeping the beach clean we are protecting the environment and working toward a trash-free ocean. Come join us for CRM's Coastal Month event.

Enjoy Kilili Beach this weekend, but remember that the pavilions will be closed off for painting and drying on Saturday, Sept. 14 so please no barbecues or picnics until after the cleanup and painting. **(CRM)**



LOYALTY PROGRAM

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. underwriter Janel Pangelinan, third from right, presents a certificate of partnership to Tropical Instant Press, Inc.'s staffer Charlie Rivera, second right, for their recent participation in Pacifica Loyalty, a loyalty discount program designed to help customers of Pacifica Insurance save money on necessities other than insurance. Rivera is joined by other staff members of Tropical. Through Pacifica Loyalty, Tropical will be offering 10-percent off printing services. For information on the loyalty discount program, log on to www.pacificains.com/pacificaloyalty.

PACIFICA INSURANCE



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Lei Lei Martin, the most *bonita na seniorita* from the north side of the island! May you have many more years to come! God bless and enjoy your day, *neni* girl! Greetings come from your *ninas* Mona, Leslie, AJ, and RJ.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Three Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on Marine Beach, Tank Beach, and Ladder Beach on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these

locations were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical

environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzed samples of 12 Saipan east and south recreational beaches this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

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WHO

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WHEN/WHERE

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September 13, 2013 – Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort (Residents of Kagman Village)

TIME

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Registration starts at 6:00 p.m.



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The on-campus effect of off-campus threats

Before the advent of the Internet, it made sense for schools to discipline students only for what they said and did when they were on school property. But it's now possible for a student to disrupt the learning environment by pecking out threats on his home computer or on the telephone he carries on the school bus. Should administrators be able to hold students accountable for misbehavior on this virtual campus?

We think so, and so does the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The court ruled last week that public schools may punish conduct that poses a risk of substantial disruption even if the conduct takes place off school property. The ruling upheld the 90-day expulsion imposed on a high school student in Minden, Nev., who used MySpace to send instant messages that threatened classmates and mentioned the 2007 massacre at Virginia Tech.

Landon Wynar argued that his temporary expulsion from Douglas High School violated both his free-speech rights and his constitutional right to due process. In a landmark 1969 case, the Supreme Court rightly ruled that students don't "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate." But that same decision allowed administrators to sanction student expression that was reasonably likely to create "substantial disruption of or material interference with school activities" or violate "the rights of other students to be secure and to be let alone."

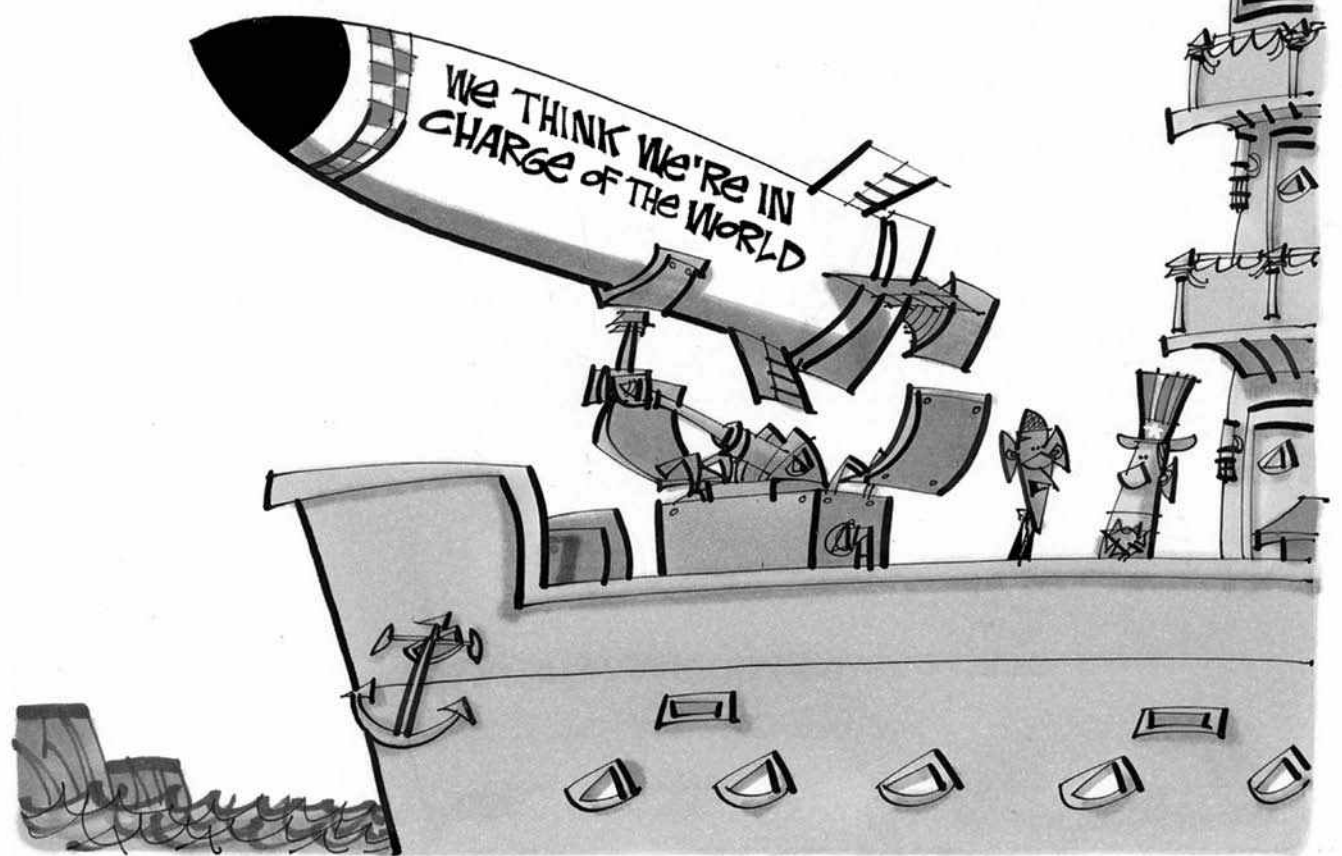
It's an understatement to say that Wynar's messages satisfied that legal test. He wrote that "its pretty simple / I have a sweet gun / my neighbor is giving me 500 rounds ... I've watched these kinds of movies so I know how NOT to go wrong." He indicated that he would "only kill the people I hate" including "the blacks / and mexicans / halfbreeds / atheists / french / gays / liberals." (Wynar told school officials the messages were jokes.)

The more difficult question for the court was whether school administrators could punish Wynar for messages he typed at his home. Acknowledging that some federal judges have expressed a different opinion, Judge M. Margaret McKeown concluded that "when faced with an identifiable threat of school violence, schools may take disciplinary action in response to off-campus speech expression" consistent with rules announced by the Supreme Court.

That's a sensible conclusion. Students do have free-speech rights, even in the classroom, and the courts are right to intervene when administrators overreact to a student's exercise of that right, whether it's an antiwar black armband, a T-shirt opposing gay marriage or a "boobie bracelet" worn to express solidarity with breast cancer patients. But when a student seems to target vulnerable classmates, nothing in the Constitution prevents administrators from taking action, whether he tapped out his message in a school computer lab or in the solitude of his bedroom.

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"AN ATTACK ON SYRIA WOULD SEND EVERYONE A MESSAGE."

Virus spreads vs violation of law

There's a virus spreading among public officials storming up delusions that any of them may unilaterally decide a law is unconstitutional and decline to follow the law or defend it in court. It's a free judgment about the constitutionality of a law as to trash it whimsically.

History has it that founder and second U.S. President John Adams called our country "a nation of laws and not of men."

Legislators freely fed off a hog's back, piling political niceties on the Fund to hasten its bankruptcy. Isn't this a violation of constitutional provision that fully protects diminishment of retirees' pay?

The governor doubles up constitutional violation with his "settlement agreement." Isn't this in violation of their oath of office? Isn't the use of monarchical power unconstitutional?

Apparently, the Nancy Boys never saw the true essence of accountability guarding against diminishing the pension of retirees. It's a fatal failure in fiduciary duty.

Understandable the death grappling reality the administration faces how the pension fund would send it scrambling to meet the needs of essential public services.

Doing town hall meetings won't tranquilize nor alter the letter and spirit of pertinent constitutional provision prohibiting reduction of pension pay for retirees. Nor can it rest in its warped view of constitutional law as nuisance.

It still is law and fidelity to it is a must in a "government of laws." Hope this administration doesn't establish unprecedented cavalierly indifference to the rule of law. The issue rests with the people who approved pertinent constitutional provision.

If I may reiterate: Ignoring the mandates of the Constitution would not only violate the rights of retirees but a complete usurpation of law neither the governor or the court could willfully dispose of without requisite constitutional amendment or repeal of current provision. Definitely it's a policy matter that creates more fiscal problems than there are answers for as long as it is in the books.

It's an issue whether leadership understands the deepening mess and if it is prepared to violate fidelity to the rule of law. Yes, there's a dire need for economic growth of sort, anything. But it's a long journey given prohibitive cost of utilities that has forced a lot of small businesses to shut down.

Urgency of ferry system

The sooner we secure a ferry to cut the cost of basic commodities shipped to our two neighboring islands the better. As it is, the goods are piled with heavy wharfage fees before they are shipped to the two islands.

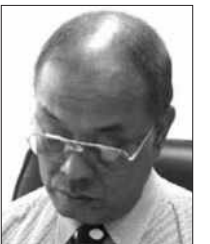
Inherent in the current budget under review is included CIP funds for this purpose. I appeal to our legislators to be mindful of this dire need and treat this issue with real urgency.

The process of procuring the boat involves time and the shorter

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



we cut its purchase and operational emplacement, the greater good we would have given to our brothers and sisters on the two islands. Let's do it and do it right, today!

Fish in the boat

A fish in the boat is better than the millions out there. Definitely! You could bring it home and use it to supplement the family diet. The millions behind your boat are still in the water and unless you catch them, it's useless pining for larger catch. It's the fish in the boat that matters!

It seems, though, that we've ignored "fish in the boat" for decades. In other words, we have the resources to work with but are often derailed by the inability to see beyond conventional wisdom.

For instance, we have a lot of mango that rot annually in a sea of flies. In Puerto Rico, mango is made into jam and rum, its upgrade from waste to a moneymaking venture turns into marginal but healthy profits.

But in order to provide the necessary shift from conventional to higher level of commercially marketable produce, we need to engage in serious planning sessions with all key players to move the needle. It would have to move beyond the Sabalu Market. Do you think this is possible? It is and it only needs teeny resolve to move it to the next level.

Yes, we can continue having our Sabalu Market for I know farmers would miss the beer, barbecue, and fellowship we find in such gatherings. But let's begin resetting our buttons to move farming and fishing to a higher plane where we can begin making steady income all year long.

Militarization of NMI

The boundary of our discussion for additional land for military purposes is limited to cryptic information released by appropriate agencies for public consumption. But it goes beyond the usual seesaw debate whether to allow or disallow it. Equally true is the right of the feds to acquire more land using the eminent domain concept.

What's known as "Sino-American" Armageddon lurking nearby would place these isles and Guam in harm's way. It is particularly wor-

See **VIRUS** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Desk audit won't resolve HR problems

A desk audit is never a tool useful for resolving a human resource management problem. If the human resource management system is adequately sustaining what it is suppose to achieve, which are focusing on stability and consistency of practices and approaches as principal objectives, then why pursue something that would have minimal effect? If the desk audit at CPA is a foregone conclusion, then the only explanation for this action is indicative of a dysfunctional human resource management system.

A desk audit is never the answer to perpetual human resource management anomalies. For example, the issue of an incumbent meeting the maximum step in the pay range is what the personnel system is all about. This is what it is designed to achieve. On the other hand, the main objective of an efficient and effective human resource management system is to minimize cost. Management's view that the desk audit would be good for employees is a misguided assertion, because a desk audit in many situations would actually turn out detrimental to unsuspecting employees who are being assured of a higher salary through the process of a desk audit.

A desk audit should be few and far between as a corrective action, if the human resource management system is meeting its intended objective of stability and consistency. The net effect in many instances fall on the desire of management to game the system, thinking that the desk audit is the way out to a fair and justified compensation offer to employees. It is surprising that this effort is turning out to be one that is grounded on ill assessment of the real problems of CPA's human resource management system. While it is still this early, it is imperative that CPA reverse its course and allow time and resources for the evaluation of its human resource management system. Insisting that the desk audit of positions is the answer only suggests that the issue of pay would never be settled if the human resource management system continues to recycle the internal problems on pay issues in perpetuity.

The CNMI has a high unemployment situation. This gives CPA the flexibility and leverage to stay the course and manage less with less. CPA is not in the business of turning itself into a welfare department. With respect to employee morale, believe me employees are in a better position holding their jobs at CPA than joining the ranks of desperate unemployed souls actively looking for secured jobs. I myself am looking for a job and would take any offer at CPA if anyone presently employed wishes to leave the good job they have. It is a harsh and dreadful reality but employees would think twice but keeping their jobs at CPA for as long as possible.

Frankly, there is no need to pursue the desk audit. It would not result in any cost wise impact, except an anticipated increase in their budget. So, why go for something that does not make real sense when people in the CNMI are just wondering why only a few privileged employees are being treated as sacred being? It hurts to have what we want and don't have, but somehow having what you have is good enough compared to others that are without a job. Is CPA the only place in the CNMI that is without an issue on spending money? And it seems that the actual employers of CPA are being put on the wayside. But why?

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Our market economy needs to be informed!

Yes, you are right Delegate Kilili, we don't *dictate* to businesses where and who to sell to and it is clear I misspoke by using the term *directive* from the President. I know very well and understand the rationale you offered for not seeking a directive and you are right, so please accept my humble apology. However, I have made the proper change in my terminology and beg to humbly and respectfully resubmit my request for your help in Washington.

I know Congress and the President are restricted by law from forcing businesses to include the insular areas but there is nothing wrong or illegal with them asking when it can help increase the businesses' earnings and help the people in the insular areas who are clearly being left out of the mail-order chain of American commerce. I'm sure that Congress and the President also understand the need for equality in all levels in America. I also respectfully suggest that if the businesses in the CNMI were already shipping

items to some states and found out that they could sell their product in all the states at the same price using the same postal system, they would jump to add the other states to their mailing list; they will surely want to make more money. Putting the insular areas on their mailing list is a great improvement for them to do more business. So why would the Chamber or anyone complain about getting the opportunity to make more money, which is why I totally disagree with your rationale.

I respectfully submit that your rationale was wrong about mainland businesses rejecting a chance to include the insular areas. I was clear that if businesses are mailing their product through the U.S. postal system they won't incur any additional cost but will tremendously increase their market base, which is an economic fact! The problem with most of businesses is they only need to be *informed* because they don't even know we exist, to have us on their listing and that insular areas have U.S. post offices. This is a pure educational challenge, not politics. Solving the entire problem is as simple as getting Congress and the President to *inform* these businesses, not you one at a time. A simple resolution from Congress in collusion with a presidential appeal to business will fix it.

I applaud your efforts to tackle this on a one-on-one basis but this approach means we may never be fully incorporated in America's mail-order commerce. The CNMI is America, too, and the Ethics Committee can't say one thing about a broad request to all businesses for all insular areas; there is no favoritism involved. By changing the approach from a directive to a plea or request, it will be very doable because Congress and the President have made passionate pleas to the business community before. As we know they keep telling companies to "stop paying their CEOs these high bonuses." If the President and Congress can ask companies to cut bonuses, they can certainly ask businesses to include the insular areas, especially when it means businesses will have an opportunity to make money adding millions to the mainland economy. The only question is, will you dodge the work with excuses or will you do the extraordinary work to get it done? I believe the energy you are putting into single cases will be better served by taking on the complete solution—Congress and the President can fix it with the stroke of their pen and one public statement.

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Tragic commentary

Article 12 restrictions on land alienation "were intended as a safeguard for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands from losing control over [their land resources] for a limited period [25 years] during the transition to membership in the American political family."

The objective was "to prevent native Chamorros and Carolinians from losing possession of and control over their most scarce resource, land."

The purpose of Article 12 was "to furnish substantive protection to [persons of NMI descent], to further the preservation of their culture, and to protect the underlying social order of the Northern Marianas Islands."

Adoption of children has long been a part of the culture in the Northern Mariana Islands, both by custom and by statute. An adopted child is treated as a legitimate blood descendant of the adoptive parent for all purposes, including inheritances and applicability of statutes, documents, and instruments.

The current definition of a person of Northern Marianas descent specifically includes "an adopted child of a person of Northern Marianas descent if adopted while under the age of 18 years" (Article 12 Section 4).

It is very sad to see that an attempt is being made to disrupt families and the culture by excluding adopted children from acquiring land from their parents. This is a tragic commentary on the current value of families and culture.

Article 12 prohibits the "acquisition"—not the "ownership"—of land by a person not of Northern Marianas descent. These are land owners—legal land owners—who were Trust Territory citizens, who moved to the Northern Marianas Islands and legally acquired land here, who made their homes here and raised their families here, who have become a part of the culture and society of the Northern Mariana Islands. Yet because neither they nor one of their ancestors was here before 1950, they are not considered persons of Northern Marianas descent.

It seems to me that if Article 12 is to be retained in some form or another, consideration should be given to allowing land to be passed from parent to child, regardless of whether the child is adopted or not and regardless of whether the child is a person of Northern Mar-

ianas descent or not. This would further preserve the culture and protect the underlying social order of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Jeanne Rayphand
San Vicente, Saipan

Filthy politics at DPS

The head of DPS spoke at length about reinstating "trust" and I came close to being a convert until I started learning of his dispositions that are far removed from it. In fact, it boggles the mind how he has defined the term to suit his ill-conceived dispositions.

For instance, he's leaving to attend the annual boating safety conference by this weekend with his favorite police officer 2 (his driver) whom he's allowed to make decisions abrogating dispositions of tenured officers his senior. Why wasn't a staff or head of the boating safety division chosen for this conference? Isn't this purposeful neglect a form of corruption in government, cherry picking who goes on junket trips paid for by taxpayers?

Furthermore, how is it possible that people were hired and given lofty positions as captains and majors when in fact they were dishonorably discharged from the military? Is DPS blind to this anomaly as to partake filling the department with military-type rejects? Is the qualifications bar at DPS this low?

There's also the seeming chill building among his clique in his obvious decision to bypass a fully certified officer as range master. The person is now handling shooting range activities and has done exceptionally well acquiring various certifications that fully prepares him as the most suited for the post. He's been in this position for the last two years. Hope it isn't a case of ethnicity or racism, Mr. Commissioner. Perhaps you've got your misguided excuses on trust building at DPS?

These abuses warrant critical review by OPA, including an ocular review by the inspector general of appropriate federal agency to ensure the integrity in the disposition of funds. Must ensure that their expenditure aren't willfully abused and violated by the half-cocked powers-that-be. Or is OPA in cahoots with DPS in this case?

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

Clarification

This is in response to Mr. Ambrose Bennett's letter to the editor published in your paper on Sept. 9, 2013.

My purpose for writing is to clarify that, while I appreciate Mr. Bennett's interest in providing the CNMI with a ferry to promote interisland transportation, I would like to reiterate that the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority and the Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board are responsible to develop, establish, and oversee a transportation system for the Commonwealth and assess the Commonwealth's transportation needs and develop a viable public transportation system. COTA and its advisory board, CPTAB, are currently waiting for the results of an ongoing Saipan-Tinian route ferry service feasibility study for interisland marine transportation being undertaken by Department of Public Works before taking any further action.

Thomas J. Camacho
*Special Assistant for Public Transportation
Chairman, Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board*

VIRUS

From Page 10

risome a long war in which the technically superior U.S. forces would prevail, according to David Gompert—until recently the second-highest-ranking U.S. intelligence official in the Obama administration.






"So their military is developing plans and tactics for early and swift strikes to take out U.S. carriers, air bases, and command and control networks, including satellites. Meanwhile, the U.S. military has come up with its 'air-sea battle' plan 'designed to cripple such forces—missile launchers, air and submarine bases, and command and control centers before they can be unleashed.'"

There's hope, though, that Sino-American economic and trade relations would overwhelm any possibility of an all-out war. If arsenal buildup is simply to ward off rogue countries, then China is by no means a rogue nation. In fact, she's also done well assisting island countries near and far in the interest of solidifying trade relations in the 21st century.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 75
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 74
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 74
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 81

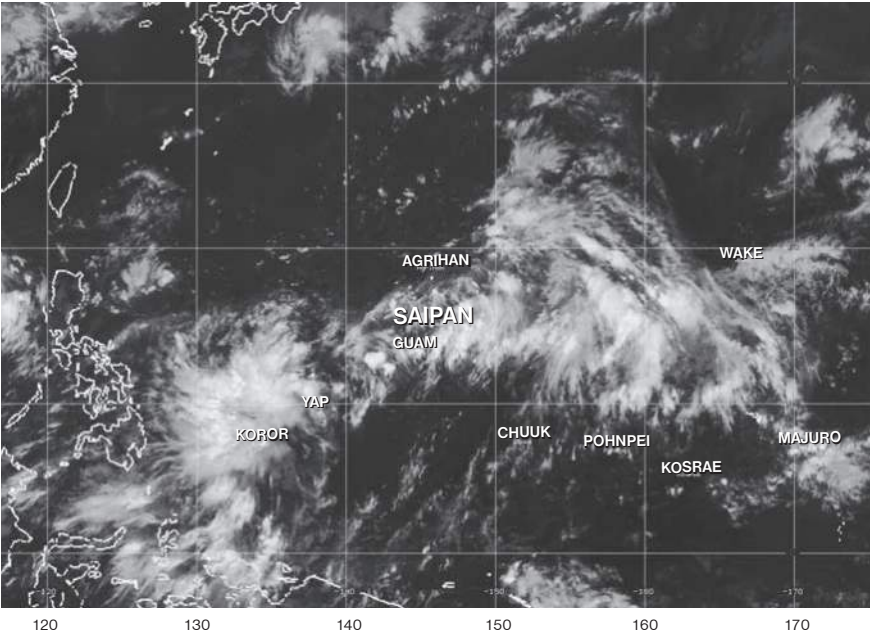
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲ 62 ▼ 52
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 64
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 74
London	Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 61
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 77
New York	Sunny	▲ 92 ▼ 73
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 74
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 67 ▼ 55
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 72
Rome	Thundershowers	▲ 77 ▼ 66
Salem	Sunny	▲ 95 ▼ 64
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 60
Seoul	Rain	▲ 76 ▼ 68
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 73
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 94 ▼ 75

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
6:34 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
1:09 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
6:41 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough curves southeastward from Luzon through 13N130E and a circulation centered northwest of Yap at 13N136E then continues northeastward then east to end at 17N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough and circulation across the Republic of Palau and Yap state between the equator and 15N from 130E to 138E and over Guam and Rota to southeast of Wake Island between 10 north and 20N from 140E to 170E. Convergent east and southeast winds are producing scattered showers around Minami Tori Shima between 20N and 25N from 150E to 155E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers south of Majuro between 4N and 7N from 170E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:19 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:56 AM	10:40 PM
Thursday	11:55 AM	11:36 PM
Friday	12:53 PM	
Saturday	1:50 PM	12:35 AM
Sunday	2:45 PM	1:36 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily	UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	Daily	UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
DL285	6:35am	9:10am	1, 6	UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
				UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
				OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
				OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7	MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)			
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM	SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT	PR110/UA5072	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	DL172/288	7:55am	1:30am+1	Daily via NRT
				UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5074/PR111	11:20am	4:45pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
				OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.			
SAIPAN-FREEDOM AIR				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			
				FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE			
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Cepeda, Torres join OAG



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Assistant attorney general Barbara P. Cepeda, left, and grants management specialist Carla Torres.

The CNMI Office of the Attorney General welcomes two new staff to its team.

Barbara P. Cepeda hails from the island of Guam where she worked with the Office of the Attorney General of Guam for 15 years. During her tenure at the Guam OAG, she worked as a prosecutor for five years before becoming the deputy attorney general for the Child Support Enforcement Division. Immediately following her ser-

vices with OAG of Guam, she was appointed legal counsel for the Lt. Governor of Guam. Cepeda brings with her a wealth of knowledge as she joins the OAG's Criminal Division as assistant attorney general and commits to serving the CNMI.

The other addition to the team is Carla Torres, a grants management specialist. A native of Saipan, Torres returns home to serve the CNMI after pursuing her education in California.

With the challenges of sequestration, she commits to tapping all available funding sources to enhance the services of the OAG to better serve the community and the CNMI overall.

"I am thrilled to be part of the OAG team," said Torres. "With a tough economy, I am committed to the challenges ahead, at the same time I remain optimistic to see a brighter CNMI in years to come." (*Office of the Governor*)

USCG cutter *Sequoia* returns to Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia* returned to Guam on Aug. 28 after being away from its homeport for the past seven months.

Family members of the crew met the cutter as it pulled up to the pier at Naval Base Guam. Cheers, claps, hugs, and smiles were in order as loved ones and friends were finally reunited. For many of the crew, the cutter's arrival was their first opportunity to see the beauty of the island and homeport.

Sequoia spent the last seven months in Bellingham, Washington, receiving much needed maintenance and repairs to the ship's propulsion plant and hull, including overhauls of the main engines, generators, and hydraulic equipment as well as critical hull repairs, rust removal projects, and a fresh coat of paint. The crew worked diligently, often putting in 12 hour days, to manage and effect repairs necessary to get the cutter back to sea and continuing to perform its' missions throughout Micronesia.

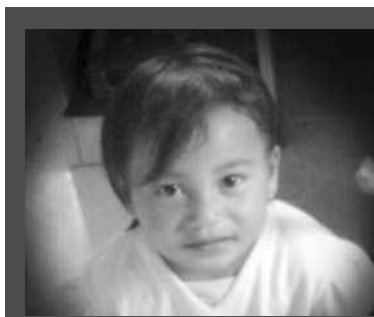
The *Sequoia* is a 225-foot ocean-going buoy tender. The vessel has a crew of 52, consisting of nine officers and 43 enlisted. The cutter's main mission is Aids to Navigation



USCG
The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia* pulls up to the pier at Naval Base Guam on Aug. 28 after being away from homeport for the past seven months.

(ATON), but the crew is also trained to perform missions in search and rescue, law enforcement, and maritime environmental protection. The *Sequoia*

is charged with maintaining ATON in and around Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. (*USCG*)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 3rd birthday to Rosaleen Tagabue!! We love and miss you. God bless and may you have many more to come! Love, Shaun and Jojo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



IS LOOKING FOR

Our Saipan Office

Airport Representative (10)

- Valid CNMI driver's license required, knowledge in Japanese/Chinese/Korean language is preferred

Guest Service Representative (10)

- Excellent communication skills, computer literate, proficiency in Japanese/Chinese/Korean languages, previous experience in hospitality industry preferred

Our Tinian Business Site

- **Accounting Clerk (2)** - Previous experience in accounting preferred
- **Computer Technician (MIS) (1)** - Minimum 2 years experience.
- Formal training/education is strongly preferred
- **Bar Attendant (4)** - Minimum two years experience
- **Storekeeper (2)** - Must be able to lift and carry weight up to 50lbs
- **Waitstaff (Waiter/Waitress) (20)**
- **Lifeguard (2)** - Lifeguard Certification is required
- **Cooks (Cantonese Cuisine (3), Korean Cuisine (3), Western Cuisine (3))**
Minimum 2 years culinary experience, formal training /education in culinary arts is strongly preferred
- **Housekeeping Attendant (20)**
- **Engineering Staffs**
A/C Technician (2), Plumber (2), Electrician (2), Mechanic(2), Carpenter (2)
Minimum 2 years experience, formal training/education is strongly preferred
- **Cage Teller (7)**
Must have strong mathematical and money handling skills, minimum 2 years experience as Bank Teller or Cashier type occupation is preferred
- **Surveillance Operator (2)**
Minimum 1 year experience as Surveillance or CCTV operator
- **Security Officer (10)**
Must pass Physical Fitness Test
- **Guest Relation Officer (10)**
Excellent communication skills, computer literate, proficiency in Japanese/Chinese/Korean languages, must have excellent people skills.
- **VIP Host (10)**
Excellent communication skills, computer literate, proficiency in Japanese/Chinese/Korean languages, knowledge of casino games, minimum 2 years experience in Casino industry
- **Casino Dealer (60)***
1 year experience as Casino Dealer

* Interested applicants without experience may qualify for the Casino Dealer Training Program. Minimum of 10 qualified applicants.

Minimum qualification requirements for all positions listed

At least 18 years of age. High school graduate or equivalent.
Authorized to work in the US. Must be able to work flexible hours and night shift.
Good customer service, communication and interpersonal skills.

Employment Application Forms are available at

2/F Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino

or request through e-mail - tdh.hrd@pticom.com / Fax - (670) 328-1106

For Saipan Applicants - e-mail or fax to request and submit Application Form. Completed application form and all necessary requirements must be submitted on or before **September 11, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m.**
Incomplete application will not be accepted

Business

3 pct. growth seen in 2014 Largest Ferris wheel nears completion

Business forecasters maintained their rosy view of the U.S. economy in 2014, predicting 3 percent growth by the second quarter of next year, low inflation and improving employment.

The top economists surveyed by the National Association of Business Economics between Aug. 8 and Aug. 20 also said there's an 80 percent likelihood that the pickup in growth will prompt the Federal Reserve to trim its monthly \$85 billion purchases of mortgage bonds and Treasury bills next year.

The NABE's 43 respondents said in a report released Monday that there's a 45 percent chance the Fed will begin its so-called "tapering" as early as this year.

But economists trimmed their expectations for the second half of 2013 since the last survey, in May.

The economists predicted that real gross domestic product

would grow at a 2.3 percent annualized rate in the third quarter through September, down from 2.5 percent seen earlier; and 2.6 percent in the fourth quarter, down from 2.8 percent seen earlier. They were less optimistic about consumer spending, industrial production and private investment in nonresidential structures, equipment and software.

The economists' slightly more pessimistic views were likely affected by the government initially reporting in July that second-quarter GDP grew 1.7 percent. On Aug. 29, the Commerce Department revised the figure sharply higher for the April-June quarter, to 2.5 percent.

"It's fair to assume that they reduced their outlook for GDP because they had seen weaker business investment across the board," said Ken Simonson, chief economist of the Associ-

ated General Contractors of America and an NABE analyst who helped compile the report. "The big takeaway is that the forecast now, like in May, is for gradually improving conditions, getting up to ... growth of 3 percent in 2014 and holding there." The last time the economy grew more than 3 percent over one year, on average, was in 2005.

NABE economists predicted that the consumer price index will grow just 1.3 percent in 2013 and 1.7 percent in 2014 when excluding volatile food and energy prices. The unemployment rate is seen falling to 7 percent next year from 7.5 percent this year, with the economy adding on average 199,000 non-farm jobs a month next year.

The dollar is seen holding steady against the European currency at \$1.30 per euro next year, compared to an expected \$1.31 in 2013. (AP)

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The mad-cap carnival on the Las Vegas Strip is getting another over-the-top addition: the world's largest Ferris wheel.

The outer wheel of the 55-story High Roller ride is scheduled to be hoisted into place Tuesday. The gargantuan project is now visible from all over the city, including the airport. Early next year, it will be outfitted with 1,500 LED lights, and start its slow spin.

"It's going to be an icon," Project Director David Codiga said. "It's going to be a part of your visit to Las Vegas if you ride it or not. It's more or less impossible not to see it if you come here."

Caesars Entertainment Corp., which owns more casinos than any other U.S. gambling company, is building the

ride as part of its \$550 million Linq development, a new outdoor plaza across the street from Caesars Palace.

The walking mall, sandwiched between the Flamingo and Harrah's hotel-casino, is expected to open this winter. It's designed to lure Gen Xers and millennials, demographics Caesars believes will contribute a majority of Sin City tourist dollars by 2015.

City after city has jumped to put a new spin on the classic carnival attraction over the past decade.

The High Roller will be 100 feet taller than the London Eye, which opened in 2000, 30 feet taller than China's Star of Nanchang, which opened in 2006, and 9 feet taller than the Singapore Flyer, which opened in 2008.

These giant urban Ferris

wheels typically transport riders in large, fixed capsules instead of the smaller, teetering baskets most people remember from childhood.

High Roller riders will have to take a break from gambling and smoking when they enter one of the 28 glass capsules attached to the gargantuan wheel, Codiga said, but they will be able to take in the marquee-lit panoramic views with a drink in hand.

The wheel, which has been under construction since 2011, is taller than the Bellagio hotel-casino but still dwarfed by the Stratosphere observation tower, which rises more than 1,000 feet. It will carry 3.5 million pounds of steel—the equivalent of about 200 Hummers—and will take 30 minutes to make one revolution.

Toyota again recalling 880,584 RAV4, Lexus sedans

DETROIT (AP)—Toyota is recalling 880,584 RAV4 SUVs and Lexus HS 250h sedans in the U.S. and Canada because a repair announced last year may not have solved a safety problem.

RAV4s from the 2006 through 2011 model years and the Lexus HS250h from the 2010 model year are involved in the recall.

Toyota says if rear suspension nuts aren't tightened properly after a wheel alignment, the rear lower suspension arm can rust and separate from the vehicle,

increasing the risk of a crash.

At least nine crashes and three injuries related to the problem have been reported, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. At least 131 owners have complained about the issue to NHTSA and Toyota.

Toyota recalled the vehicles last August for the same issue, but spokeswoman Cindy Knight said the repair procedure in the previous recall was incorrect. Knight didn't know

if Toyota sent out the wrong instructions or if technicians at its dealerships didn't follow the correct procedures. She said technicians are receiving additional training.

Toyota is recalling 780,584 vehicles in the U.S. and 100,000 in Canada. Owners will be notified over a six-month period starting this month.

Toyota technicians will inspect the vehicles and replace suspension arms which are loose or rusted for free.

Apple's next big thing may be lower-priced iPhone

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple's much-anticipated update to its line-up of iPhones may leave the impression that the technology pioneer's focus has shifted to making more affordable products than engineering innovative breakthroughs.

In keeping with its tight-lipped ways, Apple Inc. hasn't disclosed what's on the agenda for the coming-out party scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. PDT Tuesday at its Cupertino, Calif., headquarters.

But this is the time of year that Apple typically shows off the latest generation of its iPhone, a device that has reshaped the way people use computers since its debut in 2007. Apple took the wraps off the iPhone 5, the current model, last September. The company has never waited longer than a year to update the iPhone,

which has generated \$88 billion in revenue during the past year.

Apple's timetable for rolling out products has vexed many investors who have watched the company's growth slow and profit margins decrease. Meanwhile, a bevy of smartphone makers, most of whom rely on Google Inc.'s free Android software, release wave after wave of devices that cost less than the iPhone. Those concerns are reflected in Apple's stock price, which has declined nearly 30 percent since peaking at \$705.07 at about the same time the iPhone 5 went on sale last year.

Even though Apple's market value of roughly \$460 billion is more than any other company in the world, the deterioration in its stock price is escalating the pressure on

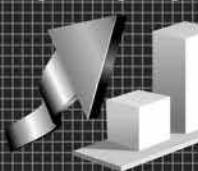
CEO Tim Cook to prove he's the right leader to carry on the legacy of co-founder Steve Jobs. Since Cook became CEO two years ago, Apple has only pushed out new versions of products developed under Jobs, raising questions about whether the company's technological vision has become blurred under the new regime.

In public appearances, Cook has repeatedly said Apple is working on some exciting breakthroughs, but he hasn't revealed details. The company is believed to be working on a so-called "smartwatch" that would work like a wrist-bound smartphone. Samsung Electronics, one of Apple's biggest rivals, introduced its own \$300 smartwatch called Gear last week, as did Sony and Qualcomm Inc.



The 55-story High Roller, the world's largest Ferris wheel, is under construction near the Las Vegas Strip on Monday, Sept. 9, 2013, in Las Vegas. AP

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
15,063.12	1,671.71	3,706.18
140.62	16.54	46.17
+0.94%	+1.00%	+1.26%

In U.S. dollar terms

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.078	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7541
British Pound	0.6368	Indian Rupee	64.335
Canadian Dollar	1.0358	Indonesian Rupiah	11145
Chinese Yuan	6.1198	Japanese Yen	99.65
Euro	0.7537	Malaysian Ringgit	3.274
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2412
		Philippine Peso	43.925
		Singapore Dollar	1.2686
		South Korean Won	1084.5
		Swiss Franc	0.9321
		Taiwan Dollar	29.64
		Thailand Baht	32.11

Nation

Obama: I might lose congressional vote on Syria

WASHINGTON (AP)—Battling stiff resistance in Congress, President Barack Obama conceded Monday night he might lose his fight for congressional support of a military strike against Syria, and declined to say what he would do if lawmakers reject his call to back retaliation for a chemical weapons attack last month.

The president made his comments as a glimmer of a possible diplomatic solution appeared after months of defiance from the Russian-backed government of President Bashar Assad in Syria. In a rapid response, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid cited “international discussions” in unexpectedly postponing a test vote originally set for Wednesday on Obama’s call for legislation backing a military strike.

In a series of six network interviews planned as part of a furious lobbying campaign in Congress, Obama said statements suggesting that Syria might agree to surrender control of its chemical weapons stockpile were a potentially positive

development.

At the same time, he said they were yet another reason for lawmakers to give him the backing he is seeking.

“If we don’t maintain and move forward with a credible threat of military pressure, I do not think we will actually get the kind of agreement I would like to see,” he said on CNN.

In a separate interview with NBC, the president took the step—unusual for any politician—of conceding he may lose his campaign in Congress for legislation authorizing a military strike. “I wouldn’t say I’m confident” of the outcome, he said.

“I think it’s fair to say that I haven’t decided” on a next step if Congress turns its back, the president told NBC, part of a furious lobbying campaign aimed at winning support from dubious lawmakers as well as a war-weary public.

The president picked up a smattering of support but also suffered a reversal when Sen. Johnny Isakson, a Georgia Republican, announced he had

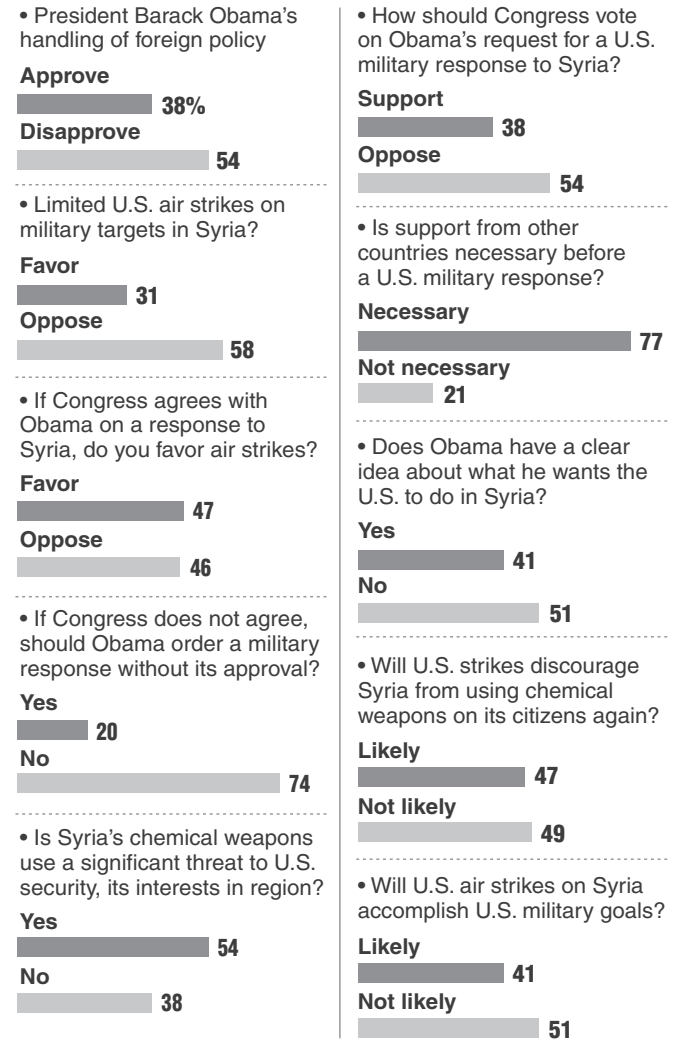
switched from a backer of military action to an opponent.

“They’re in tough shape. It is getting late,” said Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., after he and other lawmakers emerged from a closed-door meeting with ad-

ministration officials. The New York Republican favors the legislation that Obama wants, but he said the president didn’t need to seek it and now must show that a strike “is in America’s national security interest.”

Should the U.S. strike Syria?

A new McClatchy-Marist poll shows registered voters oppose limited U.S. air strikes against Syria in response to its alleged use of chemical weapons on its citizens.



Source: McClatchy-Marist poll of 856 registered voters, Sept. 7-8, 2013; margin of error: +/- 3.3 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2013 MCT



AP
In this image from video provided by CBS News, CBS Evening news anchor Scott Pelley interviews President Barack Obama in the Blue Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, Sept. 9, 2013.

ACROSS THE NATION

Zimmerman's wife won't press charges despite call

LAKE MARY, Fla. (AP)—The sobbing wife of George Zimmerman called 911 on Monday to report that her estranged husband was threatening her with a gun and had punched her father in the nose, but hours later she decided not to press charges against the man acquitted of all charges for fatally shooting Trayvon Martin. Lake Mary police officers were still investigating the encounter as a domestic dispute, but no charges had been filed Monday afternoon. Shellie Zimmerman left the house after being questioned by police. George Zimmerman remained there into the early evening and his attorney denied any wrongdoing by his client. George Zimmerman was not arrested.

Police question parents in Pa. tot starving death

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A severely disabled 3-year-old girl who weighed just 11 pounds when she died Monday was starved to death, Philadelphia police said as they held the girl’s parents for questioning. Nathalyz Rivera’s father found her unresponsive inside the family’s bug-infested home around midnight, but called her mother instead of 911, Homicide Capt. James Clark said. The girl was driven to a hospital where she was pronounced dead. Carlos Rivera, 30, allegedly fled after dropping off his four other children with a relative but was found later in the day and detained at police headquarters, where his wife was also being questioned.

Hawaii gov. calls special session on gay marriage

HONOLULU (AP)—Gov. Neil Abercrombie on Monday called for a special legislative session to move forward on a bill that would legalize gay marriage. If lawmakers pass a bill, Hawaii would join 13 U.S. states and the District of Columbia in allowing gay marriage. The special session is scheduled to begin Oct. 28. The bill is the culmination of 20 years of discussion, Abercrombie told reporters during a news conference at the Hawaii Capitol.

Ohio man who confessed in video turns himself in

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A harsh sentence for an Ohio driver who made an online video confessing that he caused a fatal wrong-way crash after a night of heavy drinking would send the wrong message to people trying to take responsibility for a crime, his attorneys said Monday. In a 3 1/2-minute video posted last week, Matthew Cordle admitted he killed a suburban Columbus man and said he “made a mistake” when he decided to drive that night. “My name is Matthew Cordle, and on June 22nd, 2013, I hit and killed Vincent Canzani,” he says somberly. “This video will act as my confession.” Cordle, 22, was charged with aggravated vehicular homicide Monday and booked into Franklin County Jail.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK,] **CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0505**
Plaintiff,]
-v-]

ALEINA D. HOFSCHEIDER,] **THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**
ALVIN U. HOFSCHEIDER,]
and LOUISE C. HOFSCHEIDER,]
Defendants.]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 3, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: (a) Lot No. 005 I 547, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2084/82, the original of which was registered on May 14, 1982, as Document No. 14232, at the Land Registry, Saipan; and (b) Lot 1743 NEW-7-5 (formerly part of Lot 1734 NEW-3, which was part of original Lot 1734, T.D. 661), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2017/90, the original of which was recorded on November 15, 1989, as Document No. 89-3805, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 4, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 1st day of September, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK,] **CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0101**
Plaintiff,]
-v-]

AMALIA DIAZ TEREGEYO,] **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**
aka DEBRA AMALIA DIAZ TEREGEYO; VICENTE]
TELIPAO TEREGEYO;]
AND JOSE DLG. DIAZ,]
Defendants.]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 12, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 041 E 18 (formerly part of Lot 041 E 06, which was part of original Lot 041 E 01), situated in Talofofo, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,050 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 041 E 03, the original of which was recorded 14 February 1995, as Document No. 95-356, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 4, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 1st day of September, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,] **Civil Action No. 11-0077**
Plaintiff,]
vs.] **NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**
JAMES T. LIZAMA and JINTANA K. LIZAMA,]
Defendants.]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 2nd day of January, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **9th day of October, 2013 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 011 G 239, containing an area of 865 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 05 dated December 1, 1993, and recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on December 16, 1993 as File No. 93-4413.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) to withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;

b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) to reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 21st day of August, 2013.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law
Plata Drive Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,] **Civil Action No. 11-0106**
Plaintiff,]
vs.] **NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**
ROMAN P. LIZAMA and NAMIE ILEMELONG,]
Defendants.]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 24th day of January, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **9th day of October, 2013 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 011 G 36, containing an area of 865 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 02, the original of which was recorded on December 16, 1993 as Document No. 93-4410 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;

b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) to reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 21st day of August, 2013.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Asia

Sectarian riots spread in north India, 31 dead

MUZAFFARNAGAR, India (AP)—Security forces have been ordered to shoot rioters on sight, as sectarian violence spread in northern India on Monday despite an army-enforced curfew imposed after deadly weekend clashes broke out between Hindus and Muslims.

Gunfire and street battles that erupted Saturday in villages around Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh state have killed at least 31 people and left many more wounded or missing, police said. Both sides have blamed the other for starting the violence.

Police had arrested 200 people by Monday evening. Soldiers deployed to the region have been given orders to shoot rioters on sight, state government official Kamal Saxena said.

Still, the violence spread to the neighboring districts of Shamli and Meerut. A state of alert has been declared for Uttar Pradesh, the scene of some of India's worst communal violence when a Hindu mob razed a 16th century mosque in Ayodhya in 1992.

Hundreds of people, some packed into bullock carts, tried to flee areas where their community represents a minority. One family trying to leave Kuttba village on Sunday was beaten with metal rods and wooden sticks when caught between fighting factions.

"The whole village was very tense. I wanted to send my fam-

ily to a safer place," said Munavar, 24, who uses only one name, as his wife, 8-month-old daughter and 6-year-old niece lay on hospital beds nearby wearing bloody clothes and gauze bandages over their heads.

The violence began Saturday night after a meeting of thousands of Hindu farmers called

for justice in the Aug. 27 killing of three young men from Kawal village. Officials said some farmers delivered hate-filled speeches against Muslims.

Clashes with Muslims broke out after the meeting, with many using guns, swords, stones or knives, senior police officer Arun Kumar said.

One 26-year-old farmer, Anuvash Baliyan, said he and others were attacked in Purvalian village as they were returning home on a tractor from the meeting. He said a mob wielding metal rods and swords surrounded the tractor and began beating them.

"We hid in a field for a full

night until troops arrived the next day," he said at Muzaffarnagar's hospital, where he was being treated for sword wounds to his head and leg.

In the village of Mirapur Padav, 50-year-old Salma Liaquat said she was sitting in her open-sided hut Monday morning when four men came out of the

forest, shot her in the leg with a pistol and ran away. She and her neighbors, nervous about the rising tension, had asked police to patrol the area.

"We kept calling the police because we were scared," neighbor Shahid Ansari said. "But they didn't come until after the attack."

Hindu and Muslim patients were being kept in separate rooms at the hospital in Muzaffarnagar, about 125 kilometers (78 miles) north of New Delhi.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expressed grief and shock over the deaths, while the central government warned that communal violence was expected to escalate further in the run-up to next year's national elections. Already this year, 451 incidents have been reported, compared with 410 for all of 2012, Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde said.

As local politicians on all sides accused one another of inciting the latest violence in Uttar Pradesh, the state barred people including politicians from visiting riot-affected areas.

The state's opposition blamed the government for failing to maintain law and order, while the state's top elected official accused opposition parties of inciting the violence to undermine his administration.

"The violence is a political conspiracy to defame and destabilize my government," Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav said.



Mehrana, a 6-year-old girl injured in communal clashes, gets treatment at a district hospital in Muzaffarnagar, about 125 kilometers (78 miles) north of New Delhi, India, Monday, Sept. 9, 2013.

Rodman returning to North Korea, with others

NEW YORK (AP)—Dennis Rodman is going back to North Korea, and plans to bring a team of former NBA players with him.

Days after returning from his second trip to visit Kim Jong Un—in which he said he became the first foreigner to hold the leader's newborn daughter—Rodman announced plans Monday to stage two exhibition games in North Korea in January.

The first will be Jan. 8—Kim's birthday—with another to follow two days later.

Rodman's friendship with the autocratic leader has been criticized—and led to a couple of testy exchanges during his Manhattan news conference. But Rodman insists Kim is a good person, wants to have better relations with the United States and that he's the one who can help make it happen with his plan for "basketball diplomacy."

"Why North Korea? It'll open doors," Rodman said.

Touting his friendship with Kim and taunting President Barack Obama for not talking

to him, Rodman said he will go back to North Korea for a week in December to help select local players for the game. He hopes to have stars such as former Chicago teammate Scottie Pippen and Karl Malone.

"Michael Jordan, he won't do it, because he's Michael Jordan," Rodman said.

Rodman, holding a cigar and wearing the shirt of a vodka company and a hat of a betting company that is funding the event, said Kim has asked him to train his players to compete in the 2016 Olympics and offered to allow the Hall of Famer to write a book about him.

Though looking like a billboard, Rodman said he's not doing the event for money. He said the Irish betting company Paddy Power would put up \$3.5 million. Power later said finances hadn't been determined.

And Rodman, who joked that he hadn't drawn such a crowd in New York since he wore a wedding dress to a book signing, was adamant that this venture was serious—"groundbreaking," in Rodman's words.

"People think this is a gim-

mick. I would love to make this a gimmick ... but it's not about the money," he said.

He rarely referred to Kim by name, frequently calling him "the marshal." Rodman first met Kim, a basketball fan, when traveling to North Korea in February for a film project.

Though saying he didn't want to discuss politics, Rodman raised his voice when answering a questioner about Kim's human rights record and portrayed himself as the person who could make outsiders see the young leader as different than his father and grandfather.

"He has to do his job but he's a very good guy," Rodman said.

"If he wanted to bomb anybody in the world, he would have done it."

Instead, Rodman had harder words for Obama, whom he spoke angrily of while talking to reporters last week after his trip. He talked around a question about American citizen and Christian missionary Kenneth Bae, who was arrested in November and sentenced to 15 years of hard labor for what Pyongyang described as hos-

tile acts against the state. Kim has the power to grant special pardons under the North's constitution.

Rodman said lobbying for the release of a prisoner wasn't his job, blaming the president for not reaching out to ease tensions between the countries.

"Why Obama, are you afraid to talk to Dennis Rodman?" Rodman said, his voice rising as if he were a professional wrestler—another former pursuit—calling out an opponent. "You're not afraid to talk to Beyonce and Jay-Z, why not me? Why not me? I'm pretty important now, right?"

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf avoided comment Monday on Rodman's trip to North Korea, saying it was a private visit. She said the department was open to hearing about it, although she wasn't aware of any effort by officials to speak to Rodman.

Rodman also said he would interview Kim on live TV during the trip. Organizers said details would be provided at a later date.



Former NBA basketball player Dennis Rodman speaks to the media during a news conference in New York, Monday, Sept. 9, 2013.

World

US weighs talk of Syria dumping chemical weapons

WASHINGTON (AP)—A possible diplomatic solution to avoid a U.S. military strike arose Monday when Syria swiftly welcomed a suggestion to turn over all of its chemical weapons for destruction under international control. President Barack Obama said the proposal could be “potentially a significant breakthrough” but he remained skeptical that Syria would follow through.

The White House pressed ahead with efforts to persuade Congress to authorize a military strike, and Obama said the day’s developments were doubtless due in part to the “credible possibility” of that action. U.S. officials insisted that Syrian President Bashar Assad’s government must be held accountable for using chemical weapons regardless of what happens to its stocks.

ons regardless of what happens to its stocks.

But the diplomatic opening could provide Obama with a way out of a messy political and foreign policy bind. It followed a remarkable chain of events that started with a suggestion from Secretary of State John Kerry, followed by a proposal from Russia and immediate endorsement by the U.N. secretary-general.

Obama told NBC News in an interview Monday that he’s taking a statement from Damascus welcoming the idea “with a grain of salt initially.” But he said he would “absolutely” halt a U.S. military strike if Syria’s stockpiles were successfully secured.

“My objective here has always been to deal with a very specific problem,” Obama

said in an interview with ABC News. “If we can do that without a military strike, that is overwhelmingly my preference.”

The suggestion to secure the chemical weapons “could potentially be a significant breakthrough,” Obama told NBC News in another interview. “But we have to be skeptical because this is not how we’ve seen them operate over the last couple a years.”

Kerry told reporters in London early Monday that Assad could resolve the crisis surrounding the use of chemical weapons by surrendering control of “every single bit” of his arsenal to the international community by the end of the week.

Hours later, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov promised to push its ally Syria to place its chemical weapons under international control and then dismantle them quickly to avert U.S. strikes. Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem immediately embraced the proposal.

Then in quick succession, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged acceptance, British Prime Minister David Cameron said the idea was worth exploring and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said it



In this frame grab from video taken Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013, and provided by “CBS This Morning,” Syrian President Bashar Assad responds to a question from journalist Charlie Rose during an interview in Damascus, Syria. AP

“deserves close examination.” Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said any move by Syria to surrender its chemical weapons would be an “important step.”

That seemed to raise prospects for avoiding an expansion of the Syrian civil war, and spokesmen said the Obama administration would take a “hard look” at the proposal.

Obama cast Russia’s proposal as a direct result of the pressure being felt by Syria because of the threat of a U.S. strike and warned that he would not allow the idea to be used as a stalling tactic.

WORLD BRIEFS

Armed men kidnap archbishop in Nigeria

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Officials say armed men have kidnapped an archbishop who is the No. 2 cleric in the country’s Catholic church. The Church of Nigeria said that Archbishop Ignatius Kattey and his wife Beatrice Kattey were kidnapped near their home in the country’s southern city of Port Harcourt on Friday. Rivers state police spokeswoman Angela Agabe said Monday that Kattey’s wife was released hours later. Agabe said the archbishop is being held for unknown reasons but that investigations indicate he could be released soon. She said no ransom has been demanded. Kidnappings for ransom are relatively common in oil-rich Nigeria, both of foreigners and wealthy Nigerians. Most are released unharmed after ransoms have been paid, but people who resisted have been injured or killed.

Egyptian tanks, helicopters push through Sinai

EL-ARISH, Egypt (AP)—Egyptian troops and tanks backed by helicopter gunships swept through villages in the northern Sinai Peninsula near the border with the Palestinian Gaza Strip on Monday, the third day of a major offensive against Islamic extremists, a military official said. So far, some 20 suspected militants have been killed and 20 captured in the operation, he added. Explosions rocked el-Mahdiya and Naga Shabana, two of several villages south of the town of Rafah, the official said, where the military hit targets and shelters used by militants wanted for the killing and abduction of Egyptian soldiers over the past year. A day earlier, an al-Qaida-inspired militant group based in the area claimed responsibility for last week’s failed assassination attempt on Egypt’s interior minister, describing the Cairo attack as a “suicide” car bomb.

Navalny defuses anger over Moscow mayor’s race

MOSCOW (AP)—Opposition leader Alexei Navalny on Monday night defused anger over the Moscow mayoral election, telling a vast square of cheering supporters to celebrate his surprisingly strong second-place finish as a victory that gave rise to real political competition in Russia. Navalny has claimed that Sunday’s vote was manipulated to give the Kremlin-appointed incumbent, Sergei Sobyanin, the slim majority he needed to win in the first round and avoid a runoff. Russia’s most respected election monitoring group also questioned the accuracy of the vote. But rather than call for angry street protests like those he led after the fraud-tainted 2011 national parliamentary election, Navalny urged his supporters to keep up the kind of grassroots political activism that helped him defy all expectations and win 27 percent of the vote.

Iran’s president urges government on Facebook

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran’s curious world of online politics looked a bit more crowded Monday with members of President Hasan Rouhani’s Cabinet encouraged to open their own Facebook pages—in a country where authorities, at the same time, try to block the public from social media. The government-as-Facebook Friends initiative, reported by the pro-reform Shargh daily, is seen as part of Rouhani’s efforts to give the presidency a makeover as more accountable and accessible after his combative predecessor, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. But it further exposes the internal tensions among Iran’s leadership over whether the Internet is ultimately a force to be expanded or best kept tightly controlled.

LONDON (AP)—America’s National Security Agency may hold crucial evidence about one of the greatest unsolved mysteries of the Cold War—the cause of the 1961 plane crash which killed United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, a commission of prominent jurists says.

Widely considered the U.N.’s most effective chief, Hammarskjöld died as he was attempting to bring peace to the newly independent Congo. It’s long been rumored that his DC-6 plane was shot down, and an independent commission set up to evaluate new evidence surrounding his death on Monday recommended a fresh investigation—citing radio intercepts held by the NSA as the possible key to solving the case.

“The only dependable extant record of the radio traffic, if there is one, will so far as we know be the NSA’s,” Commission Chairman Stephen Sedley said in his introduction to the report. “If it exists, it will either confirm or rebut the claim that the DC-6 was fired on or threatened with attack immediately before its descent.”

Hammarskjöld’s aircraft went down on the night of Sept. 17, 1961, smashing into a forested area just short of Ndola Airport in modern-day Zambia. A host of hard-to-answer questions about the crash have led to a glut of conspiracy theories.

NSA evidence may be key to Hammarskjöld mystery



In this May 19, 1953 file photo, Dag Hammarskjöld, recently appointed secretary general of the United Nations who is on a visit to Sweden, smokes his pipe at a press conference held at the Foreign Office in Stockholm. AP

Among them: Why did it take 15 hours to find the wreckage, just a few miles from the airport? Why did Hammarskjöld’s bodyguard, who survived the crash for a few days, say that the plane “blew up”? Why did witnesses report seeing sparks, flashes, or even another plane?

Hammarskjöld was flying into a war zone infested with mercenaries and riven by Cold War tension. Congo won its freedom from Belgium in 1960, but foreign multinationals coveted its vast mineral wealth and the country was challenged by a Western-backed insurgency in Katanga, which hosted mining interests belonging to United States, Britain, and Belgium.

They were also jockeying for influence with the Soviet Union, which was trying to spread communism to the newly independent nations of Africa.

All four powers had a stake in the outcome of Congo’s struggle, and all four have been fingered as potential suspects in Hammarskjöld’s death.

Three investigations into the tragedy have failed to satisfactorily settle the matter, and the publication of “Who Killed Hammarskjöld?” by Susan Williams in 2011 set off a renewed round of speculation—not least because of its reliance on testimony ignored by earlier inquiries.

Zambian eyewitnesses told

Williams of a bright flash or a second smaller aircraft pursuing Hammarskjöld’s plane. But one of her most powerful witnesses was thousands of miles (kilometers) away on the night of the crash. In his testimony to the commission, Cmdr. Charles Southall—stationed at an NSA eavesdropping post in Cyprus—said he heard an intercepted radio conversation apparently from the pursuing plane.

“I’ve hit it,” Southall said he heard the mystery pilot say. “There are flames. It’s going down. It’s crashing.”

The commission’s role was not to weigh in on whether Southall’s—or anyone else’s—testimony was authoritative. But, in a reference to the NSA’s surveillance capabilities, Sedley said it was a “near certainty” that the U.S. was monitoring radio transmissions from the area.

Sedley said the commission had already sought the help of George Washington University’s National Security Archive, a non-governmental research center, in identifying whether the NSA had any relevant information.

“Of three documents or records which appear to respond to our request, two are classified top secret on national security grounds,” he said. The report went on to cite an expert at the archive as saying it was extremely rare for intelligence intercepts to be made public.

Focus

Syria's Assad:

An accidental heir proves resilient

BEIRUT (AP)—Those who knew Bashar Assad in earlier days say he was uncomfortable being the son of a president and never wanted to lead. A soft-spoken, lispng eye doctor, he enjoyed Western rock music and electronic gadgets—an accidental heir to power.

Yet Assad, who turns 48 on Wednesday, has proven to be relentlessly resilient, branded by opponents a brutal dictator who kills with chemical weapons.

His willingness to do whatever it takes in Syria's civil war, unleashing his military's might against entire towns and cities, has so far succeeded in keeping his regime core in power, even as large swaths of his country fall from his control or turn into devastated killing fields.

Nearly three years into the uprising against his family's more than 40-year-rule, he has defied every prediction that his end is near.

The West once had the impression Assad was weak or incompetent, said David Lesch, professor of Middle Eastern history at Trinity University in San Antonio. "It took this unleashing of violence and bloodshed for people to reassess their view of Bashar."

"There is revision, people saying he's a lot tougher than they thought," said Lesch, author of "Syria: The Fall of the House of Assad," who had unusual access to Assad, meeting him regularly from 2004-2009.

In the eyes of opponents, Assad is a murderous autocrat who would do anything to cling to power. The U.S. and its allies accuse him of resorting to gassing his own people, a claim the regime denies.

But for his supporters, he is a nationalist hero fighting Western imperialism and ensuring stable, secular rule in a turbulent region wracked by sectarian wars.

Assad himself appears fueled by an unshakeable belief that Syria would collapse without him, that he is not crushing a popular rebellion but fighting an attack by foreign-backed terrorists.

In a televised speech to parliament in June 2012, he likened his crackdown to a doctor trying to save a patient.

"When a surgeon... cuts and cleans and amputates, and the wound bleeds, do we say to him, 'Your hands are stained with blood?'" Assad said. "Or do we thank him for saving the patient?"

The question that has always been debated about Assad is whether he leads his regime or is led by it.

The leadership he inherited was meticulously built by his father, Hafez Assad. The Assad family and its minority Alawite sect held the most sensitive positions in the military and intelligence agencies. But they weren't the only ones: Select families from the Sunni majority and from Christian and other minorities were given powerful posts or economic spheres that invested them in the regime, one of the most autocratic in the Middle East.

The son remains as reliant on them as his father did, if not more.

"He is not the strongman. How can he be?" an exiled cousin, Ribal al-Assad, told the AP in London.

"He didn't come up through the military ranks ... He didn't put these people in, his brother did and his father did. He's more afraid of being assassinated by one of them than he is of Western airstrikes."

Bashar Assad's first months as president after succeeding his father in 2000 ushered in hopes he would loosen his father's iron grip. Even after it became clear he too would not tolerate dissent, he was still portrayed by many as a reformer at heart, fighting against an old guard who restricted his ambitions.

Even some of his strongest critics in the current war once believed he could be a positive factor.

As a senator, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry visited him repeatedly, dining with Assad and his wife at a restaurant in

Old Damascus in 2009. Former French President Nicholas Sarkozy invited him to Bastille Day celebrations in 2008. Even after his forces fired on protesters at the beginning of the uprising against him in March 2011, Hillary Clinton suggested he was different from his father—a "reformer" who should be given a chance.

So how did a purported reformer become a leader who Kerry now compares to Adolf Hitler?

"It's like a Greek tragedy," says Jean-Marie Quemener, whose biography of Assad, "Docteur Bachar, Mister Assad," was published in France in 2011.

"At each step of his existence, he had every chance of choosing the right way. But each time, either the rug was pulled from under him, or he took the wrong decision," he told The Associated Press in Paris. "Each time, his destiny was forced."

Assad came to power by a twist of fate.

The elder Assad was cultivating Bashar's older brother Basil to succeed him. But in 1994 Basil was killed in a speeding car crash in Damascus. Bashar was summoned home from his ophthalmology practice in London, put through military training and elevated to the rank of colonel to establish his credentials so he could one day rule.

When Hafez Assad died in 2000, parliament quickly lowered the presidential age requirement from 40 to 34. Bashar's elevation was sealed by a nationwide referendum, in which he was the only candidate.

"When his father called him, he wasn't ready to take power. He tried to get his younger brother to take his place," said Quemener, referring to Maher Assad, who now heads the powerful Presidential Guard.

"His destiny was forced on him, he never wanted to be leader of Syria."

The Syria that Hafez left his son was molded by 30 years of hidebound rule, with a Soviet-style centralized economy. The hand over dissent was so stifling that Syrians feared even joking about politics to their friends.

The younger Assad seemed a breath of fresh air.

Lanky with a slight lisp, he talked of his love of computers—in fact, his only official position before becoming president was head of the Syrian Computer Society.

Assad enjoyed listening to Phil Collins and British rock group ELO, Lesch recalls. His wife, Asma al-Akhras, whom he married several months after taking office, was attractive, stylish and grew up in a west London suburb. The young couple, who eventually had three children, seemed to shun trappings of power. They lived in an apartment in the upscale Malki district of Damascus, as opposed to a palatial mansion like other Arab leaders, and made surprise appearances in public, to the delight of their supporters.

The charming first lady provided a counterpoint to Bashar's geeky demeanor. Together they gave the appearance of a power couple who could bring progressive values to Syria.

One of the young female aides in his presidential office even referred to Assad as "the Dude," a familiarity inconceivable with his father, according to a trove of emails purportedly leaked from Bashar and Asma Assad's accounts and made

public in late 2011 by London's The Guardian newspaper and WikiLeaks.

Hopes for a political opening dissipated quickly. Early on, Assad reversed a brief loosening of restrictions on political activity. Instead, he opened up the economy. Under free-market reforms, Damascus and other cities saw a flourishing of malls, restaurants and consumer goods. Tourism swelled.

Officials and Western diplomats who met with Assad speak of a vain man, convinced his was the only right way.

Assad sees himself "as a sort of philosopher-king, the Pericles of Damascus," Maura Connelly, then-U.S. charge d'affaires in Damascus, wrote in a June 2009 secret diplomatic cable, released by WikiLeaks.

"When a surgeon... cuts and cleans and amputates, and the wound bleeds, do we say to him, 'Your hands are stained with blood?' Or do we thank him for saving the patient?"

Assad's gravest challenge came when small protests erupted in the country's drought-stricken south in March 2011 and spread quickly to other areas, at the time of the Arab Spring uprisings.

His response was to use the brutal tactics of his father, hoping to nip the protests in the bud.

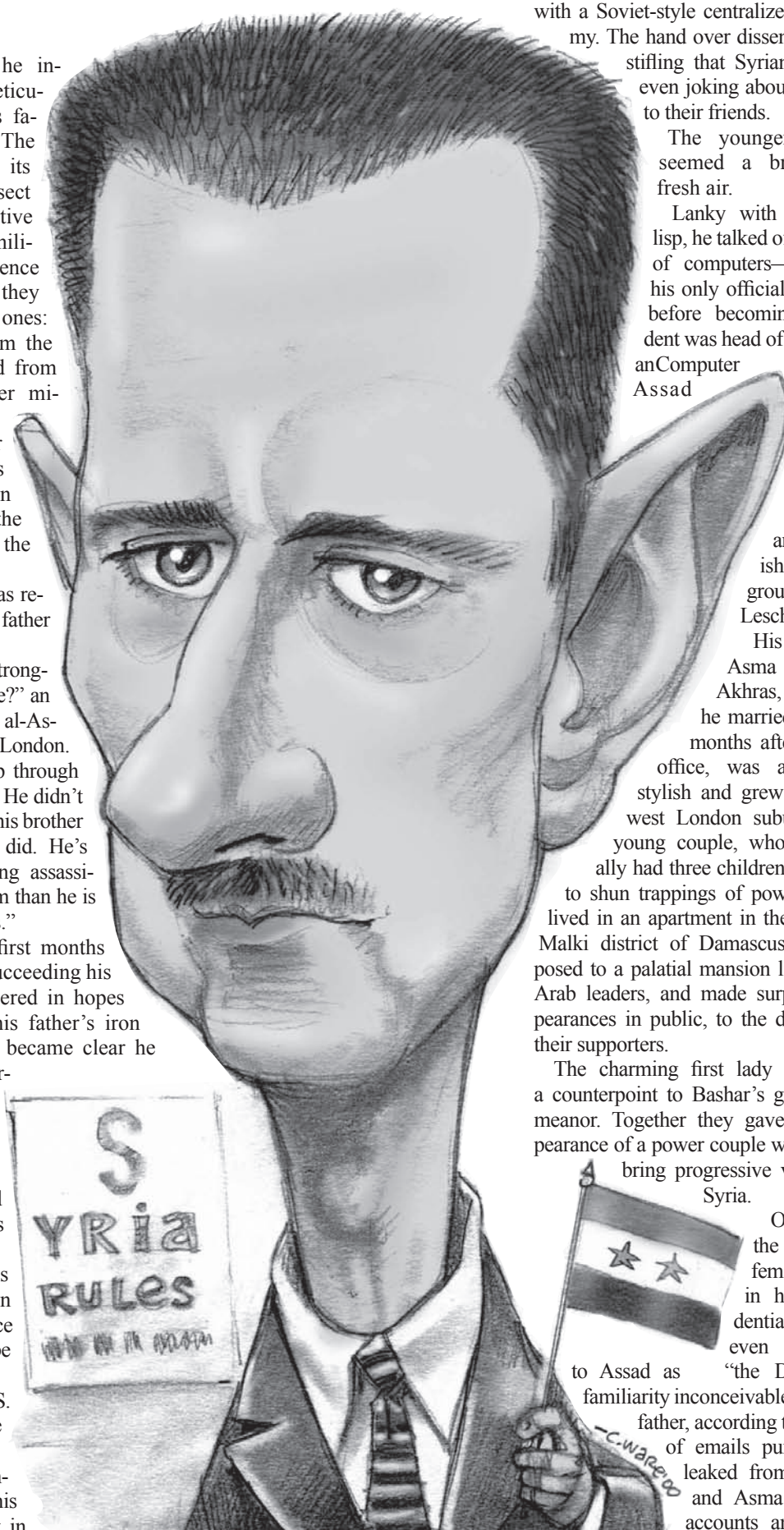
Security forces repeatedly opened fire on protesters. But the outrage only caused a snowball effect. As the uprising hemorrhaged into civil war, Assad unleashed his military to blast opposition-held cities, as well as the pro-regime gunmen known as "shabiha," alleged to have carried out mass slayings.

His actions squandered the goodwill of those who still saw him as an instrument of change. Even the first lady was tarnished. The leaked emails showed her splurging on expensive jewelry, bespoke furniture and a vase worth more than \$4,000 from Harrods department store in London, even as violence engulfed the country.

Assad turned to his family, but now that circle is dwindling. His younger brother, Maher, is still by his side but his elder sister, Bushra, a strong voice in his inner circle, is now said to be living in the United Arab Emirates. Her husband, Deputy Defense Minister Assef Shawkat, was killed in a Damascus bombing last year. One of his closest confidantes, former elite commander Manaf Tlas, defected.

Quemener said only two people can reason with him at this point: His mother and his wife.

"Like all dictators he's very alone, so he's forced to take decisions, and that tortures him."



Campus Life

Census: After recent upswing, college enrollment drops

According to U.S. Census Bureau statistics, college enrollment in fall 2012 plunged by half a million (467,000) from one year earlier. This decline, which includes both graduate and undergraduate enrollment, follows a period of substantial growth—3.2 million—between 2006 and 2011.

According to statistics from School Enrollment: 2012, this decline in college enrollment was driven by older students—that is, those 25 and older. Their enrollment fell by 419,000, while the enrollment of younger students de-

clined by 48,000.

Hispanics didn't follow the trend, as the number enrolled in college grew by 447,000 from 2011 to 2012. Meanwhile, non-Hispanic white enrollment declined by 1.1 million and black enrollment by 108,000. From 2006 to 2012, the percentage of all college students who were Hispanic rose from 11 percent to 17 percent. The percentage who were black also rose (from 14 percent to 15 percent), but the percent of non-Hispanic white students declined from 67 percent to

58 percent.

"This increase in the number of Hispanics enrolled in college can be attributed to the combination of an increase in the adult Hispanic population and their climbing likelihood of being enrolled," said Julie Siebens, a statistician in the Census Bureau's Education and Social Stratification Branch.

Other national highlights from the 2012 Current Population Survey tables:

■ In 2012, 78 million people, or 26.4

percent of the population 3 or older, were enrolled in school.

■ In 2012, there were 19.9 million college students, including 5.8 million enrolled in two-year colleges, 10.3 million in four-year colleges and 3.8 million in graduate school.

■ In 2012, there were 4.2 million students enrolled in private elementary and high schools (first through 12th grade), down from 4.8 million in 2005.

■ Non-Hispanic white children in 2012 comprised 53 percent of elementary school students, down from 58 per-

cent in 2005. Hispanic children made up 24 percent of elementary students in 2012, up from 20 percent in 2005. Black children comprised 15 percent of elementary students in 2012, down from 16 percent in 2005.

■ Students who were born in another country or whose parents were foreign-born comprised 32 percent of all those enrolled in school at all levels in 2012.

■ While most students are under 25, there were 804,000 students age 50 and older enrolled in schools at all levels in 2012. (*US Census Bureau*)

NMI scholar vows to help fill educational gap among low-income kids

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Many government scholars fail in their duty to return and serve the Commonwealth but one local scholar has already made known her commitment not only to return but also help CNMI students gain more access to higher education, particularly among low-income families.

Alexis Shawnee Palacios Cabrera, who is pursuing a master's degree in Educational Leadership & Policy at the Portland State University, told *Saipan Tribune* that in the four years she participated in several organizations and departments working alongside other college students, staff, and faculty, "I found that I developed a passion and love for working with students as they transitioned into college. I recognized the importance of providing services and assistance to all students, most especially students who are first-generation and/or low-income, and/or have documented disabilities."

Having a good understanding of some of the necessary steps needed to improve education access and available resources for these students, Cabrera said she fully intends to return to the islands to help the Commonwealth's students.

"Based on my personal and professional experience I know that there is a need to promote higher education to these students through academic,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Alexis Shawnee Palacios Cabrera is pursuing a master's degree in Educational Leadership & Policy at the Portland State University.

social, and institutional support and it is for these reasons that I decided to further my education. I also know that I can better develop my understand-

ing, knowledge, and skills set through a master's program," she shared.

Cabrera graduated summa cum laude from Portland State University, with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Social Science.

Since starting college, Cabrera said that she has been dependent on both scholarship grants and her family.

Cabrera is the daughter of John and Betty Ann Palacios Cabrera. She attended both Garapan and Kagman elementary schools and finished high school at Kagman High School in 2008, graduating as her batch's valedictorian and recipient of the Community Service Award.

"Through my participation in extra-curricular activities like clubs and organizations I got exposure to real-world experiences that helped motivate me to pursue my

education further. Also, when teachers would share their personal experiences with us, I found it fascinating and cool and I too knew that college was something that I wanted to pursue. Subject areas like English, social studies, and the arts were some of my favorite subjects growing up and I knew that I wanted to continue learning," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

One of the reasons why she chose to pursue education abroad was to gain as much knowledge, experience, and skills so that one day she could return home and help her community.

"I hope to return home and possibly get a job with [the Northern Marianas College] or [the Public School System] since my master's degree will be in Educational Leadership & Policy. I hope that I can come back and help address the needs and issues of the next generation of students in the CNMI."

Reality

Cabrera sees it as "just reality" to see some of the CNMI's professionals, after finishing their study, preferring to work abroad due to the economic hardship of the islands.

"I find that this is a reality that we are facing in the CNMI; however, I recognize that there is a greater need for our local people to return to the CNMI to help our communities. Though the poor economic conditions do play a factor in

our decision to return, it is not one that has discouraged me in my decision to return. I firmly believe that we should be even more encouraged to return in the hopes that our generation can help make the necessary changes to improve our economic conditions," she said.

When asked about the government's biggest challenge with its existing scholars, Cabrera said: "Based on my professional and personal experience, I feel that one of the biggest challenges facing our government is our students' ability to access higher education."

Because CNMI students are so far from the U.S. mainland, she said this makes it difficult for Commonwealth students to engage in college preparation activities. She feels it necessary for the government to create more ways in which CNMI students can be better prepared for higher education, whether it be through an increase in family involvement, mentoring and transition programs, and even academic programs.

Among Cabrera's other accomplishments are completion of the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, Portland State University; Diversity Enrichment Scholar, Portland State University; Presidential Equal Access Scholar, Portland State University; member of International Honor Society for Psychology Majors; and member of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

ESFDB Parent Teacher Organization inducts officers

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja held its Parent Teacher Organization officers' induction for school year 2013-2014 at the San Francisco de Borja Church.

The PTO consists of parents, guardians, and teachers or other interested persons who give their time to promote school events, activities, and class projects. The organization strives to encourage a spirit of unity and cooperation among parents, guardians, and teachers in the education of all children.

The primary purpose of the PTO is to support the ongoing mission of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja. Through the PTO, parents, guardians, and teachers strive to build community, strengthen communication, and provide resources necessary to support the school and the programs it offers.

ESFDB depends on the generous contributions of its parents to create a partnership between home and school.

"The PTO is a forum for exchanging thoughts, expressing ideas and sharing experiences," said ESFDB administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig. "An important aspect of community at ESFDB is the role parents play in partnering with faculty and staff to provide the best educational experience for our students."

"As parents and guardians of students at ESFDB, we are all members of the PTO, and parent involvement is the key to the PTO providing for the ESFDB community," added Atalig.

The ESFDB PTO inductees for school year 2013-2014 are: Melanie Enclarinal, president; Elvira Mesnagon, vice president; Jackie Manglona, secretary; Evelyn Atalig, treasurer; Normita Paine and Eva Dela Cruz, public relations officers; and sergeant-at-arms Jose Manuel, Tito Hocog II, Ben Atalig, and Mark Hocog.



PTO officers recite their oath during the ESFDB Sunday Mass.

Rev. Fr. Charlie Borja officiated the induction ceremony.

The administration and board of di-

rectors would like to congratulate the PTO officers and express their appreciation to Fr. Charlie, parents, guard-

ians, and donors for their continued support of the school. (*Edward Maratita Jr.*)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life & Style

Long-lost painting by Van Gogh is identified

AMSTERDAM (AP)—A painting that sat for six decades in a Norwegian industrialist's attic after he was told it was a fake Van Gogh was pronounced the real thing Monday, making it the first full-size canvas by the tortured Dutch artist to be discovered since 1928.

Experts at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam authenticated the 1888 landscape "Sunset at Montmajour" with the help of Vincent Van Gogh's letters, chemical analysis of the pigments and X-rays of the canvas.

Museum director Axel Rueger, at an unveiling ceremony, called the discovery a "once-in-a-lifetime experience."

"This is a great painting from what many see as the high point of his artistic achievement, his period in Arles, in southern France," Rueger said. "In the same period, he painted works such as 'Sunflowers,' 'The Yellow House' and 'The Bedroom.'"

Museum officials would not identify the owner who brought the artwork to them in 2011 to be authenticated. Van Gogh paintings are among the most valuable in the world, fetching tens of millions of dollars on the rare occasions one is sold at auction.

The artwork will be on display at the museum beginning Sept. 24.

The roughly 37-by-29-inch "Sunset at Montmajour" depicts a dry landscape of twisting oak trees, bushes and sky, and was done during the period when Van Gogh was increasingly adopting the thick "impasto" brush strokes that became typical of his work in the final years of his short life.

It can be dated to the exact day it was painted because he described it in a letter to his brother, Theo, and said he had painted it the previous day—July 4, 1888.

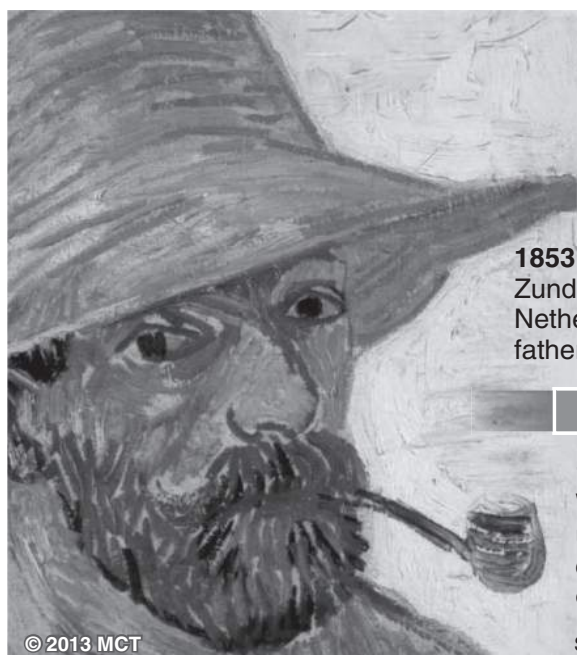
"At sunset I was on a stony heath where very small, twisted oaks grow, in the background a ruin on the hill and wheat fields in the valley," Van Gogh wrote. "It was romantic. ... The sun was pouring its very yellow rays over the bushes and the ground, absolutely a shower of gold."

But then Van Gogh confessed that the painting was "well below what I'd wished to do." Later he sent it to Theo to keep.

Van Gogh struggled with bouts of mental distress throughout his life and died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in 1890. He sold only one painting during his lifetime.

According to a reconstruction published in The Burlington Magazine by three researchers, the painting was recorded as number 180 in Theo's collection and given the title "Sun Setting at Arles." It was sold to French art dealer Maurice Fabre in 1901.

Fabre never recorded selling the work, and the painting disappeared from history until it reappeared in 1970 in the estate of Norwegian industrialist Christian



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Newly discovered masterpiece

An unknown landscape painting by Vincent van Gogh - which depicts trees, bushes and sky - has spent years in a Norwegian private collector's attic after he had been told the work was not by the Dutch master. A look back at Van Gogh's life:

1853 Born in Zundert, Netherlands; father a minister

1876-79 Studied theology briefly, dropped out to work as evangelist among poor Belgian miners

1883 Began painting regularly - realistic scenes of harsh peasant life

1888 Moved to Arles, in the south of France; began to suffer epileptic seizures that caused delusions; in one, cut off an earlobe

1869-76 Worked for uncle's company of art dealers

1879 Unsited for ordinary work because of his fanatical behavior, began to study art

1886 In Paris, encountered new "impressionist" painting; developed radical new painting techniques

1889-90 Voluntarily entered asylum, kept painting

1890 Moved to Paris area, his inspiration failing; at age 37, killed himself with gunshot in chest

Source: National Gallery of Art, BBC

Nicolai Mustad.

The Mustad family said Mustad purchased it in 1908 as a young man in one of his first forays into art collecting, but was soon told by the French ambassador to Sweden that it was a fake. Embarrassed, Mustad banished it to the attic.

After Mustad's death in 1970, the distinguished art dealer Daniel Wildenstein said he thought the painting was a fake Van Gogh or possibly the work of a lesser-known German painter, and it was sold to a collector. The museum would not say who bought it or whether it had been resold since then.

In 1991, the museum declined to authenticate the painting when whoever owned it at the time brought it to them.

"That may be a painful admission, given that the same museum is now attributing it to Van Gogh, but it is understandable," since experts had no information about what the painting depicted, the Burlington Magazine article said.



"Sunset at Montmajour" by Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh is seen during a press conference at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Monday Sept. 9, 2013.

Teio Meedendorp, one of three experts who worked on the project, said his predecessors might also have been confused because the painting was done at a "transitional" moment in Van Gogh's style.

"From then on, Van Gogh increasingly felt the need to paint with more and more impasto and more and more layers," he said.

Among other reasons experts had their doubts: The painting was unsigned. Parts of the foreground were not "as well-observed as usual," the researchers said. And part of the right side of the painting used a different style of brush strokes.

But when the museum took a fresh look at the work in 2011, its experts had the advantage of a new compendium of all Van Gogh's letters, and they were able to identify for the first time the exact location "Sunset" depicts: Montmajour hill, near Arles. The ruins of Montmajour abbey can be seen in the background.

Van Gogh mentioned the painting in two other letters the same summer.

The number 180 on the back of the canvas was an important clue, and new chemical analysis techniques showed the pigments were identical to others Van Gogh used on his palette at Arles.

Also, an X-ray examination of the canvas showed it was of the same type Van Gogh used on other paintings from the period.

Meedendorp said "Sunset" belongs "to a special group of experimental works that Van Gogh at times esteemed of lesser value than we tend to do nowadays."

He said it's not impossible another unknown or lost Van Gogh could be found someday. The artist is believed to have completed more than 800 works. While he destroyed some when he wasn't satisfied with the results, the whereabouts of others that are mentioned in his letters or early catalogs of his work are unknown.

The Van Gogh Museum houses 140 Van Gogh paintings and receives more than a million visitors a year.

Turturro lands an unlikely co-star: Woody Allen

TORONTO (AP)—Not since the forgettable 2000 comedy "Picking up the Pieces" has Woody Allen starred in a film he didn't direct. But John Turturro managed to coax Allen back into acting for "Fading Gigolo" with an enticing role: an elderly but novice pimp.

And it wouldn't have occurred if Allen and Turturro didn't happen to share a barber. Though Allen and Turturro knew each other somewhat (Turturro had a small part in Allen's "Hannah and Her Sisters" and was nearly cast in two other Allen films), they weren't close.

"I knew he liked my work," Turturro said in a recent interview. "But I don't sit next to him at Knick games."

Though both are Brooklyn-born New Yorkers who frequent Madison Square Garden, another city institution brought

them together. Turturro mentioned a film idea one day while getting a trim at the salon. The barber liked the idea and later told it to Allen, who went for it.

"It was one of those old-fashioned barbershop things," Turturro says.

"Fading Gigolo" premiered over the weekend at the Toronto International Film Festival. In the film, Turturro plays a New York florist who begins making money on the side (with the help of Allen's character) by rendering his services to women. "Fading Gigolo" is seeking distribution in Toronto, with a release most likely sometime next year.

To follow this year's "Blue Jasmine," the 76-year-old Allen has been working on his next film in France, and didn't attend the Toronto premiere. He has acted in several of his own films in recent years, in-

cluding 2012's "To Rome With Love" and 2006's "Scoop."

But Allen has often said that his movie-starring days were through once he couldn't play a plausible romantic lead opposite an attractive actress.

"He's a wonderful actor," says Turturro. "You don't really know that until you're opposite of him. He's really good physically, and he knows how to keep the rhythm."

Turturro is best known as one of the finest character actors in movies, but he's sprinkled in a handful of memorable directing efforts over the years, including the 2010 documentary on the music of Naples, "Passione," and 2005's comic working-class musical "Romance and Cigarettes."

After talking over the movie with Allen, the two agreed that Turturro would write it and that

Allen would give his feedback.

"He's merciless in his feedback, but it's very helpful," Turturro says, adding that some of the script's broader moments were stripped out. "He wanted it to be a smart film."

Allen urged Turturro to read some Isaac Bashevis Singer stories, and in the middle of the process, he also asked Turturro to direct three one-act plays on Broadway with him, Ethan Coen and Elaine May.

Still, directing a filmmaker like Allen was intimidating for Turturro.

"It's a big thing to direct someone like him, he says. 'I was a little bit nervous about it. But he was if not the easiest, one of the two easiest people to work with on the whole movie.'"

"Woody's been able to hold the screen for a long time," Turturro adds. "And he still can."

Ex-'Jersey Shore' star opens up about addiction

NEW YORK (AP)—Former "Jersey Shore" cast member Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino realized he had an addiction problem on a trip to Australia in February 2012.

He ran out of a prescription to treat an injury suffered during a 2010 stint on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

"All I had to do was get dressed for a family function and I couldn't do that," Sorrentino said Monday in an interview with The Associated Press. "The shirt was laid out, the belt, the pants, everything. The shower was on. I couldn't even get out of bed," he said. Then he thought, "If I can't do that how am I going to continue?"

There were rumors at the time that he was battling an addiction to drugs or alcohol but Sorrentino maintains that wasn't the case and says "those rumors were definitely false. I didn't mix anything."

Soon after he checked into rehab where doctors prescribed him with a medication to treat opiod addiction. Sorrentino still takes it daily and says that, combined with counseling, is what works best for him.

The 32-year-old is now a



Reality television star from the MTV Series "Jersey Shore," Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino poses for a portrait, on Monday, Sept. 9, 2013 in New York.

paid spokesman for Reckitt Benckiser Pharmaceuticals, Inc., the company that makes the medication he's taking. He's also helped launch a program called Reset Reality, to spread knowledge and understanding of opiod prescription painkiller addictions.

The road to figuring out he

had a problem wasn't so easy. Looking back, there were people, like his family, who recognized before he did that something wasn't right.

For one, he stopped working out as much which was out of character. Also, he recalls "People would say, 'Mike's not the same Mike we've seen

before.'" He would respond, "I don't know what they're talking about" or chalk it up to someone not liking him or the show, but now says, "I was suffering a disease."

After completing rehab, Sorrentino still had one more season to film of "Jersey Shore."

"A little part of me was like, 'How am I gonna get through this?' but if you watched I didn't have one drink."

The show aired its final episode last December. Since then Sorrentino has "gotten back to who Michael is."

The focus is on fitness, family, cooking and he says he also has a girlfriend.

He tries to look at life in 24 hour increments and his goal is to be "the best person I can be for those 24 hours."

Sorrentino also has plans to return to showbiz and hopes to have career announcements soon, but says staying healthy is his main focus and he's proud of that.

"The roller coaster of fame and fortune is definitely a ride in itself but to get to recovery is something special. ...There is hope out there and you can get help."

Patrick Stewart tweets news of nuptials

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Patrick Stewart is sharing the news of his nuptials on Twitter.

The 72-year-old actor posted a photo on the site Sunday of himself and his bride buried to their necks in multicolored plastic balls with the simple caption, "Yes, married."

A Stewart spokesman confirmed Monday that the actor married Sunny Ozell Saturday in a ceremony in Lake Tahoe officiated by Ian McKellen.

McKellen and Stewart will share the screen again in next year's "X-Men: Days of Future Past."

Miley Cyrus to be host, musical guest on 'SNL'

NEW YORK (AP)—Miley Cyrus may have something to talk about when she appears on "Saturday Night Live" next month.

NBC said Monday that the singer and actress, who did some attention-getting twerking and found new uses for foam

fingers during a duet with Robin Thicke on the MTV Video Music Awards last month, will be both host and musical guest of the NBC late-night program on Oct. 5.

It will be the second new "Saturday Night Live" of the

season. A week earlier, old favorite Tina Fey will be back as host. Arcade Fire will be the musical guest.

On Oct. 12, "Saturday Night Live" will feature the team of Bruce Willis as host and Katy Perry as musician.

Lovato signs multi-book deal, including memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—Demi Lovato's next stage will be on the page.

The singer-actress has agreed to a multi-book deal with Feiwel (FYE'-well) and Friends. The publisher, an imprint of Mac-



Lovato

millan, announced the deal Monday.

The first book features tweets she had written about her life. It's called "Staying Strong: 365 Days a Year" and comes out in November.

Lovato also plans

a memoir. The 21-year-old superstar has openly struggled with drug addiction and other personal troubles, some of which she has described on Twitter.

She will be seen this fall on several episodes of "Glee" and is in her second year as a mentor on "The X Factor."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Cher, Ed Sheeran among 'The Voice' advisers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBC says "The Voice" is getting four new advisers, with Cher among them. The network said Monday that coach Blake Shelton picked Cher to work with in the upcoming fifth season. As an adviser, the pop star will help Shelton groom his chosen contestants as they try to advance in the singing contest. The other coach-adviser pairings include Christina Aguilera and Ed Sheeran; Adam Levine and Ryan Tedder; and CeeLo Green and Miguel. "The Voice," hosted by Carson Daly, returns to NBC on Sept. 23.

Harvey Fierstein plots a return to Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—Fresh off his success with "Kinky Boots," Harvey Fierstein will be offering his first play in almost 30 years—

and there's plenty of kink. The Manhattan Theatre Club said Monday it will produce "Casa Valentina," a play about a community of cross-dressing men. It begins previews April 1 and opens April 23 on Broadway at MTC's Samuel J. Friedman Theatre. Producers said the show will be set in the 1960s in the Catskill Mountains and deal with an "inconspicuous bungalow colony that catered to a very special clientele: heterosexual men whose favorite pastime was dressing and acting as women." The creative team and cast will be announced later. Fierstein is a four-time Tony Award winner behind "Newsies," "Torch Song Trilogy" and "La Cage aux Folles."

007 'submarine car' sells for \$865,000

LONDON (AP)—A car that

transformed into a submarine in the James Bond movie "The Spy Who Loved Me" has been sold at a London auction for 550,000 pounds (\$865,000). The distinctively-shaped white Lotus Esprit, designed for an underwater scene in the 1977 film starring Roger Moore, was sold at RM Auctions on Monday. The sale price was below the auction house's initial estimate price of 650,000 to 950,000 pounds—perhaps because the vehicle cannot be driven on the road, although it is said to be a fully operational submarine. In the film, Moore and Bond girl Barbara Bach escape a helicopter attack by driving the Esprit off a pier into the sea.

Olivia Wilde calls fiancé 'brilliant' in video

TORONTO (AP)—Olivia Wilde kissed her fiancé Jason

Sudeikis on the red carpet and then praised him for his portrayal of Marcus Mumford in the Mumford & Sons video, "Hopeless Wanderer."

The former Saturday Night Live player—along with Will Forte, Ed Helms, and Jason Bateman—parodied the other members of the band in the often silly video. Sudeikis even enjoys a passionate on-screen kiss with Forte toward the end.

And Wilde loves the whole thing.

"Oh, it's brilliant. It's brilliant. It's my favorite thing. I love it," Wilde said.

The actress commented on the video while promoting her new film, "Rush" at the Toronto International Film Festival. More than 40 television crews interviewed Wilde, Chris Hemsworth, Daniel Bruhl, and director Ron Howard.

Mom's brief cellphone video has lingering consequences

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My 13-year-old son, "Wiley," was playing a game on my cellphone. I stupidly forgot to delete a short video of myself engaged in a sex act with my ex-husband, "Cliff." Wiley didn't confront me or mention it, but given his sudden change in behavior, I'm almost certain he saw it.

The next morning I mentioned it and apologized, hoping we could get past the awkwardness, but Wiley wouldn't admit this is what's bothering him. He acted as if he didn't know what I was talking about. Now he's shutting down. He won't talk to me. He's off in his own world as if I'm a stranger, where a few days before we would laugh, share and trust each other.

I divorced Cliff because he and my son didn't get along, but in the last six months we have been secretly having an affair and we ultimately want to get back together when Wiley is 18. My son doesn't approve of him and he's angry about it.

I'm worried and embarrassed that he saw me doing what I was doing in that few seconds of video, and I don't want to scar him or have him think differently of me. Wiley's father has been no help, and I suspect adds fuel to our son's anger during his weekend visitations. I tried therapy for Wiley—it didn't help. Do you have any suggestions?

MORTIFIED IN ARIZONA

DEAR MORTIFIED: I'm printing your letter because, once again, it illustrates the danger of putting videos of a sexual nature on cellphones. I can think of few people of any age who don't prefer to think of themselves as products of immaculate conception, and your son is no exception.

Because Cliff and Wiley's relationship was so poor the three of you couldn't coexist under one roof, discovering that you are once more intimately involved with your ex must have been traumatic and threatening to Wiley. It might reassure him to know that your seeing Cliff does not mean you will be living together anytime soon.

In the meantime, I recommend that YOU talk with a therapist to help you cope with the changed relationship you now have with your son. It's a shame that Wiley's father has used this unfortunate incident for his own selfish purposes. Divorced couples MUST remember that they have to love their child more than they hate each other.

DEAR ABBY: A year and a half ago, I reconnected with "Paul." We were in grade school together and hadn't seen each other for many years. We have been extremely happy and want to spend our remaining years together.

Because of our ages (we're both seniors) and separate families and incomes, we feel marriage is not what we'd like to do. But we would like to move in together.

Would it be ridiculous for us to do that without being married? Will the world condemn us? Will our children understand or ostracize us? How do we handle questions about why we have chosen not to marry?

IN LOVE IN LOUISIANA

DEAR IN LOVE: Many older couples do what you are considering because being married would negatively affect their retirement income. If your children like Paul—and his children like you—I doubt you will be ostracized. Most adult children want their parents to be happy.

If you're worried about how the community will react to your living arrangement, consider talking to a clergyperson about being "married in the eyes of God." As to questions about why you have chosen not to marry, apart from your family, it is nobody's business and you are not obligated to discuss it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

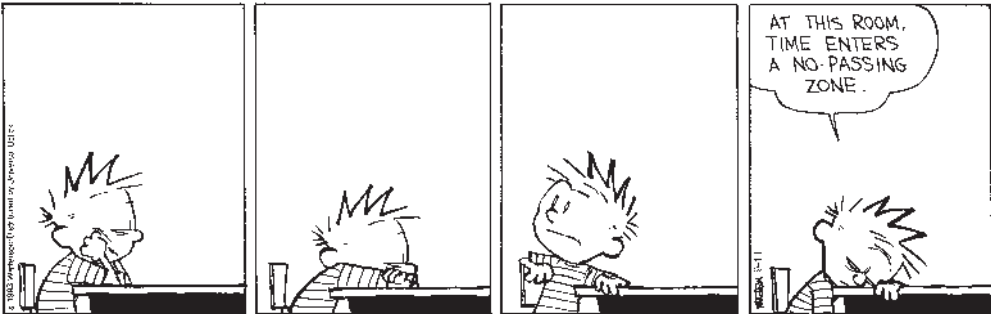
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

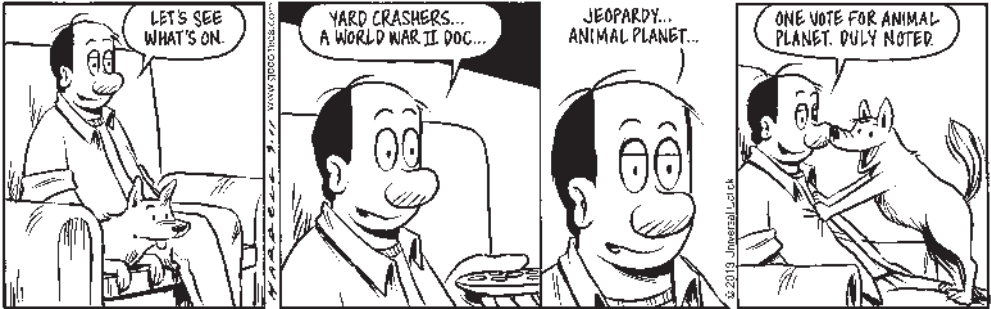


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Scenery chewers

5 Arg. neighbor

8 On the rocks

12 Labyrinth goal

13 Literary miscel-lany

14 Peace-keeping org.

15 Church VIP

17 Summer-time pest

18 Column support

19 Manly

21 Group of whales

22 Belliger-ent deity

23 Fix the sound-track

26 Go here and there

28 1950s Sen. Kefauver

31 Birthright barterer

33 — Mahal

35 Antitoxins

36 Wedding announce-ment

DOWN

1 Rope

2 Leaf-branch

3 Short skirt

4 Hurt

5 Toweling-off site

6 Individ-ual

7 Pupa-to-be

8 Entrance

9 Flour pot?

10 List-ening abbr.

11 Lavish affection (on)

16 Fawn's pop

20 Anger

23 New-come to society

24 "Born in the —"

25 Staircase rail

27 Slight touch

29 Peced-ing

30 Jazz band instru-ment

32 Still wanting more

34 Literature Nobelst Juan Ramón —

37 Crafty

39 Indone-sian island

42 Antique car

44 Some bowties

45 "— for All Seasons"

46 Bargain

48 Thing

49 Tide type

50 Blunders

53 "The Holly and the —"

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	A	M	P	W	H	O	C	O	O	P
A	R	E	A	E	A	R	H	U	G	O
T	E	A	M	M	A	T	E	C	R	U
E	S	T	A	R	E	O	C	H	E	R
O	P	T	I	C	G	E	R	V	A	N
R	F	A	R	I	F	W	A	I	O	R
B	R	U	S	Q	U	E	S	T	E	R
B	L	A	M	E	B	O	A	T	A	G
Y	O	G	A	R	O	O	M	V	A	T
T	R	O	T	A	L	P	I	C	O	N
E	D	G	E	P	L	Y	D	O	P	E

Yesterday's answer 9-11

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mike Comrie, 33; Taraji P. Henson, 43; Harry Connick Jr., 46; Virginia Madsen, 52.

Happy Birthday: Adventure beckons you, but consider the consequences before leaping into action. Emotional deception will lead to poor choices that can result in unwanted personal or professional changes. Don't allow greed to be your motivator. Helping others will bring you respect and positive responses. Strive for perfection, equality and keeping the peace, and you will excel. Your numbers are 3, 8, 14, 24, 33, 40, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Taking on too much will cause pressure, undue stress and sudden changes that require additional time and effort. Gauge your time and stick to a routine. Invest in your skills, not in helping someone else get ahead. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do things differently. Taking a unique approach to an old idea will show off your talent. Someone is likely to be jealous or threatened by you. Offer your support and it will help turn an enemy into an ally. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make positive changes in the way you help others. Offer services, time and physical assistance that can be easily documented. Keep any suggestions that may cause emotional disputes to yourself. Diplomacy is essential if you want to have things done your way. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't spend too much energy trying to impress someone who is impossible to please. You'll get far more gratification out of doing

things that will help you get ahead or pursuing something you enjoy. Creative projects will lead to greater opportunities. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let troubles at home get you down. Get out and socialize with friends or take part in community events. Sharing your ideas and making new acquaintances will improve your emotional outlook and help you make important personal decisions. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get involved in projects that can improve the environment around you. Show greater initiative to be part of your community. Refrain from making impulsive changes at home. What's really required is patience, understanding and time to let things develop naturally. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Hanging out with friends and discussing plans for the future will result in incentive and enthusiasm to turn your ideas into reality. Don't let an old issue hurt your chance to follow a dream. Address pending problems and put the past behind you. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Focus on personal goals and discuss plans with someone you want involved in your life. You will know where you stand and how you can get around any obstacle that stands in your way. Love will take a positive turn. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your emotions will be stirred up by any impulsive move you make. Acting in haste due to an incident that happens between you and a friend, peer or neighbor will turn out to be in your best interest. Actions count. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The spotlight will be yours and what you do will make a difference to your reputation. Speak openly and aggressively, and force issues that will put an end to a problem that has made your life difficult. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Listen, observe and protect what you have worked so hard to accomplish. A change in your money matters will be a relief and enable you to raise your standard of living; however, money in the bank will ease your stress. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look over contracts, investments and other personal paperwork that can make a difference to the way you move forward. Don't let emotions stand between you and making a reasonable choice. You must consider every angle and do what's best for you. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are genuine, fun-loving and free-spirited. You thrive on adventure.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](#)/[facebook](#)/[linkedin](#).

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	3	2	4	5	9					
	9		6				7			
5				1			4			
6				7			9			
9	8	7	3	2			6			
	2	1	8				7			
							5			
							2			
						3	7	6	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

9/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	8	2	3	6	1	4	9	5
9	1	5	8	7	4	3	2	6
4	6	3	5	2	9	7	8	1
2	7	6	1	8	3	9	5	4
3	5	1	4	9	2	8	6	7
8	4	9	7	5	6	2	1	3
1	2	8	6	4	7	5	3	9
6	9	7	2	3	5	1	4	8
5	3	4	9	1	8	6	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MMM ... PECAN PIE!

Solution: 6 letters

S	T	S	N	O	O	P	S	A	E	T	S	P	U	C
U	M	S	T	V	B	I	T	T	E	R	W	G	O	H
G	S	E	E	U	E	U	A	M	T	A	E	R	T	I
A	T	N	A	Z	N	L	O	R	A	K	A	A	E	P
R	M	L	O	L	F	L	P	R	M	N	R	T	W	S
I	L	E	A	I	A	S	N	A	G	T	A	E	H	S
T	L	W	R	S	S	O	Y	E	M	L	I	E	I	E
S	E	M	S	I	B	A	T	A	P	P	U	W	S	H
E	H	E	C	R	C	A	C	C	D	M	U	S	K	C
K	S	G	U	A	L	A	K	C	A	I	I	R	E	R
A	N	O	U	O	R	B	N	E	O	R	L	R	Y	U
C	B	R	C	O	R	A	®	©	ℓ	ℓ	T	O	C	S
P	A	O	O	O	D	C	M	I	R	T	P	X	H	H
U	H	N	W	C	S	G	G	E	Z	A	L	G	E	E
C	S	N	E	L	G	N	I	L	L	I	F	O	O	D

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American, Bake, Bitter, Bourbon, Bowl, Brown, Cane, Caramel, Chess, Chips, Chocolate, Corn, Cream, Crimp, Crushed, Cupcakes, Cups, Dough, Eggs, Extract, Filling, Firm, Food, Glaze, Grate, Holidays, Karo, Macaroons, Maple, Meal, Molasses, Nuts, Occasions, Orange, Oven, Pie, Plate, Roll, Salt, Shell, Stir, Sugar, Sweet, Syrup, Tart, Teaspoon, Treat, Trim, Walnut, Whiskey, Zest

Yesterday's Answer: Wieners

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Frenetic Eagles beat RG3, Redskins, 33-27



LANDOVER, Md. (AP)—After Michael Vick kneeled down for the final time, having sapped the life out of the Robert Griffin III welcome back party, the exhausted Philadelphia Eagles offense exchanged the usual pleasantries with the even-more-spent Washington Redskins defense.

"The Redskins were like, 'Next time we play you guys, you need to slow it down a bit,'" Eagles center Jason Kelce said.

Good luck with that. RG3 and the Redskins just couldn't keep up with Vick, LeSean McCoy and the frenetic offense unleashed by coach Chip Kelly on the NFL on Monday night. The Eagles crammed 53 plays into a 30-minute first half, took a 26-point lead in the third quarter and held on for a 33-27 upset of the defending NFC East champs.

"You have great dreams and you have nightmares," said Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie, describing the first half. "That was a great dream."

Running the don't-take-a-breath attack that won 87 percent of the time during Kelly's four years at the University of Oregon, Vick completed 15 of 25 passes for 203 yards and two touchdowns, and he also ran nine times for 56 yards and a score. McCoy piled up 184 yards on 31 carries, including a 34-yard TD. DeSean Jackson had seven catches for 104 yards and a TD.

"I've never been a part of anything like it," Vick said. "When the first quarter was over, I thought we was about to go into halftime. It was unreal. The only thing I could tell myself was, 'It's going to be a long season.'"

Perhaps the most remarkable accomplishment by the Eagles: They managed to upstage Griffin. The game was played eight months to the day since the Redskins quarterback had major knee surgery, and his return was the culmination of a dedicated, high-profile rehab that included a public clash with Washington coach Mike Shanahan that barely put a dent in the fans' fervent adoration for their franchise player.

Griffin was the undisputed star of the show—at least until kickoff. He arrived at the stadium wearing an autographed T-shirt from Les Dauphins de Nice, the American football team in France that welcomed him for a workout during his honeymoon in July. When he threw warm-up passes at the 45-yard line, three camera crews were at the 40. He led a team huddle at the 10, just 5 yards from the spot where his knee gave out in January. He was greeted by baseball legend Tommy Lasorda on the sideline, then made a spectacle of an entrance when the starting lineups



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick throws under pressure from Washington Redskins outside linebacker Brian Orakpo during the first half of an NFL football game in Landover, Md., Monday, Sept. 9, 2013

were announced, carrying the Redskins flag all the way to the end zone for an extended kneel-down for all to see.

That's the sort of attention that Vick once commanded. And, when the game began, Vick was the better quarterback. At 33, he's 10 years older than Griffin and had to fight for his starting job in training camp, but he's still got game. It would have been a bigger rout if Vick's lateral on first-and-goal at the 4 hadn't been tipped by linebacker Ryan Kerrigan and returned 75 yards for a Redskins touchdown.

Meanwhile, the masses didn't get much of a chance to chant "R-G-3!"—because the Redskins offense couldn't stay on the field. Their first seven plays: lost fumble by Alfred Morris, 3-yard loss by Morris, penalty for illegal shift, screen to Morris that got back some yards, interception thrown by Griffin into triple coverage, pass dropped by fullback Darrel Young, safety that occurred when Morris bobbled a pitch in the end zone.

The Redskins were trailing 33-7 late in the third quarter before three consecutive touchdowns—the last coming with 1:14 to play—made the score more respectable.

Wearing a brace on his right knee, Griffin completed 30 of 49 passes for 329 yards, but 169 yards came in the fourth after the Eagles had taken control. He was also intercepted twice—the first multi-interception game of his career. He ran only five

times for 24 yards.

Washington didn't run a play in Philadelphia territory until the second half. At one point, the Eagles were outgaining the Redskins 146-3. Even Kai Forbath, who made 17 of 18 field goals in his rookie year, was wide right in the third quarter. Shanahan's team also committed 10 penalties for 75 yards.

"Had a serious case of the can't-get-rights," Griffin said. "Penalties, hurting ourselves. I don't throw picks, Alfred doesn't fumble, and Kai doesn't miss field goals. All three of those happened tonight. So we'll get better, no doubt."

There was a moment in the second quarter when the weary Redskins defense had more cramps (two) than their offense had first downs (one).

The first-half stats resembled something from an Oregon opener against a creampuff, not a game between NFC East rivals. Total yards: 322-75. First downs: 21-3. Time of possession: 20:20-9:40. Philadelphia's 53 plays were the second-most in a first half by any NFL team since 1991.

"That was the first time I've used oxygen since college. It wears on you, but I think it wears on the defense a lot more," Kelce said. "I think we'll see a few more guys coming up with cramps, regardless of whether those are real or not."

Texans 31, Chargers 28

In San Diego, even when the Houston Texans fell behind by

three touchdowns on the road in the second half of their season opener, Matt Schaub and Andre Johnson remained confident they could roar right back.

Sure, the San Diego Chargers were off to a solid start for their new coach.

The veteran Texans know how to finish.

Randy Bullock kicked a 41-yard field goal as time expired, and Houston rallied from a 21-point deficit in the second half for a 31-28 victory over the Chargers on Monday night.

"Once you put a score on the board, then another, and the defense gets a stop, the big turnover, it just builds," said Schaub, who bounced back from an interception on Houston's first play to pass for 346 yards. "Momentum keeps building, and you can feel that energy, and it's contagious."

Brian Cushing returned an interception 18 yards for the tying touchdown with 9:30 to play for the Texans, who erased a 28-7 deficit late in the third quarter to spoil the debut of Chargers coach Mike McCoy.

After two straight division titles and playoff trips, the Texans have ample experience in handling trouble together. Schaub provided steady leadership, and their vaunted defense held San Diego to 90 yards—just 7 on the ground—in the second half.

"There was no doubt in my mind that we were going to win that game," said Johnson, who had 12 catches for 146 yards. "Even in the third quarter, we

didn't come out playing that great, but we got it together and made it happen."

While the Chargers showed promise, the Texans began a season of Super Bowl aspirations with a gritty comeback befitting a defending two-time AFC South champion club that got off to an 11-1 start last season.

Schaub recovered from that tipped interception on the first play to throw three TD passes—two to tight end Owen Daniels—in the final game of the NFL's opening weekend.

Philip Rivers threw four touchdown passes in a tantalizing start for the Chargers under McCoy, the offensive guru hired to revitalize a stagnant franchise. San Diego led 7-0 just 15 seconds in with a TD pass in its first play.

But Houston's veteran toughness took over: The Texans' powerful defense shut out San Diego over the final 25 minutes, and Schaub engineered the final 36-yard drive to set up Bullock, who coolly nailed his first NFL field goal.

"I expected us to be in a dogfight," Houston coach Gary Kubiak said. "I'm disappointed with the way we played early, but we did not give up. ... We were mature enough to hang in there and get the win, so we have to be mature enough to know that we didn't play very well."

San Diego's fans got a taste of McCoy's inventive offense—and they got an agonizing re-

minder of last season under fired coach Norv Turner, when the Chargers blew five halftime leads. In last year's lowlight, San Diego blew a 24-0 halftime lead in its last Monday night game against McCoy's Broncos last October.

"You lose this way, and it stings a little more," Rivers said. "It's disappointing we didn't finish the game, because we had control. You've got to play all four quarters."

Ryan Mathews caught a 14-yard TD pass on San Diego's first snap, while Eddie Royal made two TD catches and Vincent Brown had another for the Chargers during an auspicious start in the first three quarters for McCoy.

"The effort was there," McCoy said. "They did a nice job. We just didn't finish it. It comes down to not finishing a football game."

Cushing came up big in his first game since missing most of last season with a knee injury and then signing a six-year, \$55.6 million extension last week. Rivers' under-pressure throw was snagged by Cushing, who got up from his diving catch and rumbled into the end zone.

Schaub finally got the Texans in position for Bullock, a fifth-round draft pick last year who missed all of his first season with a groin injury.

The former Lou Groza Award winner at Texas A&M didn't miss, celebrating the kick with his new teammates and a vocal bunch of red-jerseyed fans who took over the sections behind Houston's bench.

Schaub's first pass was tipped into the air by Jarret Johnson, and 330-pound defensive tackle Cam Thomas gathered it in. The San Diego crowd was still cheering when Rivers threw down the Houston sideline to Mathews, who dived in for a score.

"We've just got to keep the pedal down," Mathews said. "You can see we can put up points, and our defense is looking great."

After Brown made a spectacular diving play for a touchdown with 26 seconds left in the first half, Rivers went right back to work after halftime, moving the Chargers 80 yards for a short scoring pass to Royal and a 28-7 lead. The Texans finally responded with a long drive capped by Garrett Graham's TD catch.

Houston got another boost early in the fourth quarter when Thomas got a 10-yard penalty during a field-goal attempt for unnecessary roughness against Houston's center, giving a first down to the Texans on a new rule for this season. Daniels caught his second TD pass on the next play from 9 yards on the next snap, cutting San Diego's lead to seven points with 14:44 to play.

Tillman takes charge as Orioles beat Yankees, 4-2



BALTI-MORE
(A P) —
C h r i s

Tillman took a three-hitter into the eighth inning and the Baltimore Orioles beat the New York Yankees 4-2 on Monday in a game that featured an on-field confrontation between the teams' managers.

With the victory, the Orioles moved within 1 1/2 games of idle Tampa Bay for the second AL wild card. The Yankees fell three games behind Tampa Bay.

Tillman (16-5) allowed two runs and four hits in seven-plus innings. He walked none and struck out nine, matching his career high.

Both dugouts emptied briefly after the first inning, when Orioles manager Buck Showalter angrily exchanged words with Joe Girardi after the Yankees manager apparently said something to Baltimore third base coach Bobby Dickerson. Showalter had to be restrained by home plate umpire Ed Hickox.

Alex Rodriguez hit his 652nd homer.

Indians 4, Royals 3

In Cleveland, Ubaldo Jimenez struck out 10 in seven innings and Asdrubal Cabrera, Yan Gomes and Carlos Santana each hit solo homers, leading the Indians to a win over the Royals in a matchup between two teams in the thick of the AL wild-card chase.

The Indians, who won despite having only five hits, stayed even with Baltimore, 1 1/2 games back of Tampa Bay for the second wild-card spot. The Royals dropped to four games behind the Rays.

Jimenez (11-9) allowed one unearned run and didn't walk a batter. The right-hander left with a 4-1 lead after throwing 99 pitches, but Alex Gordon hit a two-run homer off Cody Allen in the eighth.

Royals starter Ervin Santana (8-9) gave up the three homers.

Twins 6, Angels 3

In Minneapolis, Trevor Plouffe had two hits and drove in the tying and go-ahead runs as the Minnesota Twins snapped a 10-game home losing streak with a victory over the Angels.

Plouffe's two-run, two-out double in the fifth inning tied the game 3-all, and his bases-loaded



Baltimore Orioles starting pitcher Chris Tillman delivers the ball to the New York Yankees during the first inning of a baseball game, Monday, Sept. 9 2013, in Baltimore. AP

sacrifice fly off Cory Rasmus (0-1) in the seventh put the Twins ahead as the Twins won at home for the first time since Aug. 15, avoiding the longest home losing streak since the franchise started in Washington in 1901.

The home skid was the Twins' longest since moving from Washington in 1961. The Senators lost 10 straight home games in 1957.

Casey Fien (4-2) earned the victory with a scoreless seventh.

White sox 5, Tigers 1

In Chicago, Chris Sale gave up a run and four hits in eight innngs, denying Max Scherzer his 20th win, and Miguel Cabrera was ejected in the first inning as the White Sox beat the Tigers.

Sale (11-12) won for the fifth time in six decisions.

Scherzer (19-3) gave up five runs and six hits in four innings as he lost consecutive starts for

the first time this season after Boston beat him Sept. 3.

It was Detroit's fifth loss in six games, dropping the Tigers' lead in the AL Central to 4 1/2 games over Cleveland.

Cabrera was ejected after arguing that he was hit by a pitch.

Astros 6, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Jonathan Villar's two-run single highlighted a four-run ninth inning as the Astros rallied to beat the Mariners in front of the smallest crowd in Safeco Field history.

Abraham Almonte hit his first major league homer, a two-run shot in the seventh inning, to give the Mariners a 3-2 lead. Seattle reliever Charlie Furbush got out of a jam in the eighth, but in the ninth the Astros broke through.

Danny Farquhar (0-3) walked Marc Krauss and Carlos Corporan with one out, and Jimmy Paredes' run-scoring single tied

the game at 3. Villar then gave Houston a two-run lead with his hit to center.

Kevin Chapman (1-1) pitched a scoreless eighth to earn the win.

Pirates 1, Rangers 0

In Arlington, Texas, clinching their first winning season since 1992, rookie right-hander Gerrit Cole had a career-high nine strikeouts over seven innings to outpitch Yu Darvish and lead the Pirates to a victory over the Rangers.

The Pirates (82-61) didn't get a runner to second base against Darvish (12-8) until Marlon Byrd's two-out double in the seventh. He came home when Pedro Alvarez followed with a double.

Pittsburgh had lost a season-high four games in a row since getting their 81st victory last Tuesday at Milwaukee to guarantee their first non-losing season in more than two decades.

Darvish is 0-3 his last five

starts, all Rangers losses. The Japanese right-hander struck out six while allowing one run and four hits over seven innings.

Braves 5, Marlins 2

In Miami, Evan Gattis drove in two runs to highlight Atlanta's highest-scoring inning in more than a month as the Braves snapped a four-game slide by beating Miami 5-2 on Monday.

Justin Upton, Freddie Freeman and Gattis all doubled to lead off what became a five-run fourth, Atlanta's biggest inning since a five-run fifth against Philadelphia on Aug. 2. Kris Medlen (13-12) was the beneficiary that night against the Phillies and again on Monday, getting the win after allowing six hits and two runs in 6 1-3 innings.

Atlanta (86-57) passed idle Boston (87-58) for baseball's best record.

Chris Coghlan tied a career high with four hits for Miami, which lost for the 24th time in its last 34 games. Ed Lucas added a two-run double in the seventh for the Marlins.

Marlins starter Henderson Alvarez (3-4) gave up no hits in the first three innings, before Atlanta got to him in the fourth.

Craig Kimbrel worked the ninth for his 45th save in 48 tries. Atlanta has not lost more than four straight at any point this season.

Cubs 2, Reds 0

In Cincinnati, Travis Wood beat Cincinnati for the first time in his career, repeatedly pitching out of threats for seven innings.

Wood (9-11) finally beat the team that traded him after the 2011 season. He was 0-4 in his career, including three losses this season. He allowed six hits and fanned seven.

Kevin Gregg gave up a double in the ninth while earning his 31st save in 35 chances.

Ryan Sweeney and Luis Valbuena homered off Bronson Arroyo (13-11), who had won his last four starts against the Cubs. Arroyo allowed seven hits over seven innings, striking out six.

The Reds were coming off a week when they got six wins in seven games against St. Louis and the NL West-leading Dodgers.

Cincinnati is 13-4 against the Cubs this season. Overall, Cincinnati has won 12 of its last 15 and 22 of its last 27 against Chicago.

Nationals 9, Mets 0

In New York, Gio Gonzalez was inches from a no-hitter as Washington hit five home runs in the rout.

Gonzalez (10-6) held the overmatched Mets hitless into the seventh before pinch-hitter Zach Lutz broke up the bid with a soft single for New York's only hit. Lutz swung at the first pitch of the inning and hit a loop that landed on the first base line, taking out a chunk of chalk well behind the bag.

The left-hander struck out eight and walked two for his

second career shutout and fourth complete game, improving to 5-0 in his last six starts against the Mets.

Denard Span and Ryan Zimmerman hit back-to-back homers to start the game. Jayson Werth and Tyler Moore also connected off Carlos Torres (3-4), roughed up by Washington for the second time in six weeks. Wilson Ramos added a three-run shot off reliever Greg Burke.

The Nationals won their third straight and fifth in six games.

Giants 3, Rockies 2, 10 innings

In San Francisco, Brandon Belt's RBI single with one out in the bottom of the 10th gave San Francisco its second straight walkoff win.

The defending World Series champions, however, were eliminated from contention in the NL West earlier in the evening when the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Angel Pagan hit a one-out single off reliever Adam Ottavino (1-3) and took third on Marco Scutaro's single. Belt, who doubled in the tying run in the eighth, hit a 1-2 pitch over the head of left fielder Charlie Culberson for his second game-ending hit this season.

D.J. LeMahieu singled and doubled to extend his career-high hitting streak to 11 games, and Nolan Arenado scored from second base on an infield groundout for the Rockies.

Buster Posey hit his 15th home run of the season for San Francisco.

Dodgers 8, Diamondbacks 1

In Los Angeles, Juan Uribe homered in each of his first three trips to the plate as Los Angeles connected six times in all in reducing its magic number for clinching the NL West title to eight.

Adrian Gonzalez, Andre Ethier and Hanley Ramirez also went deep in the Dodgers' biggest power display in almost seven years.

Ricky Nolasco (13-9) won his seventh straight decision over eight starts.

Uribe beat out an infield single to third base in the seventh against Heath Bell to drive in the Dodgers' final run, capping his first four-hit game since April 23, 2001, against Atlanta.

It was the first time the Dodgers hit as many as six home runs in a game since Sept. 18, 2006, when they hit seven.

Uribe was the eighth player in the majors this season to hit three homers, and the first Dodger to do it since Ethier on June 26, 2009, against Seattle. It was Uribe's first three-homer game.

Los Angeles' first four homers came off Randall Delgado (4-6), who threw 70 pitches over 2 2-3 innings.

Billionaire fined for trying to undo Kings arena



SACRAMENTO, Calif. (A P)—Billionaire Chris Hansen must pay \$50,000 for his role in a secretive effort to funnel money to a group trying to thwart Sacramento's efforts to build a new downtown arena, the California Fair Political Practices Commission said Monday.

The FPPC found that, just days after the NBA rejected Hansen's \$625 million bid to buy the Sacramento Kings and

move them to Seattle, he gave \$100,000 to a group leading an effort to thwart Sacramento's efforts to keep the team.

A group of investors led by technology executive Vivek Ranadive bought the team for \$535 million, one day after the NBA rejected Hansen's bid.

The NBA has said that Sacramento must build a modern arena to keep the Kings in town. The team's new owners have set a 2016 target.

The state political watchdog found that Hansen gave

\$100,000 to a group gathering signatures to thwart Sacramento's plan to keep the team by forcing a citywide vote on the city's planned \$258 million subsidy for a downtown arena.

Hansen tried to buy the team earlier this year as city officials scrambled to find a buyer who would keep the franchise in Sacramento.

The FPPC said Hansen is being punished for failing to file a campaign statement. Hansen has agreed to the fine, and the commission will vote to make


it official.

The hedge fund manager has apologized, saying he regretted his actions.

"I take a lot of pride trying to do things the right way in my life, and I simply should not have allowed myself to get caught up in the competitive dynamics of this situation and never should have agreed to commit any funds to the Sacramento Arena opposition—under any circumstances," Hansen said in a statement posted on his website.

NMBA to hold open tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Northern Marianas Badminton Association is squeezing in an open tournament in its calendar of events this season.

NMBA president Jerry Tan made the announcement about

the additional competition this year during the awards ceremony for the group's third event of the season—the Shirley's Badminton Classic—last week at Nami in Kanoa Resort. Tan added the open tournament is tentatively set for next month or a few weeks before NMBA holds the Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament.

As the name of the tournament suggest, NMBA players can choose their partners for the competition and players in different classes are allowed to compete in one division. NMBA implements a club system in its regular tournaments and only players in the same club are allowed to team up. In singles tournaments, players are

divided in classes, A, B, and C.

Meanwhile, players went home with multiple medals during the awards ceremony for the Shirley's Badminton Classic.

Andreau Galvez took both the singles and doubles gold medals in Class A, teaming up with Jexler Caranto in the doubles. In the women's division, Hannah Choi also notched two gold medals, partnering with Alma Ortega.

In the men's Class B, Jordan

Pangelinan was awarded the singles gold medal and the doubles, too, with Ezekiel Macario. To-shiko Obata had the same feat, winning the singles gold over Janelle Pangilinan and joining forces with Windy Fernandez.

Meanwhile, junior players Havikka Farro and Deether Edralin of Community Badminton Club were awarded the gold medals in the C singles, while the doubles plum went to the tandems of

Saipan Badminton Club's Yun Jun Lee and Jong Min Lee and Sison and Dianne Francisco. In the 35-and-above division, Ortega and Lucelle Lampera brought home the gold medals.

Medals were also awarded to the runners-up and third placers in both singles and doubles events with Susan Macario, general manager of event sponsor Shirley's Coffee Shop, handing cash prizes, too, to the winners.

NADAL

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3-hour, 21-minute miniseries of cliffhangers and plot twists with a pair of protagonists who inspired standing ovations in the middle of games.

There was no quit in either of them, during points that lasted 15, 25, even more than 50 strokes. Those rallies went so long, rarely over when they appeared to be, and spectators often shouted out during the course of play, prompting Nadal to complain to the chair umpire.

"It's what we do when we play against each other, always pushing each other to the limit," Djokovic said. "That's the beauty of our matches and our rivalry, I guess, in the end."

This was their 37th match against each other, the most between any two men in the Open era, and Nadal has won 22. It also was their third head-to-head U.S. Open final in the last four years. Nadal beat Djokovic for the 2010 title, and Djokovic won their rematch in 2011.

They know each other's games so well, but in the end, it was Nadal who was superior.

"He was too good. He definitely deserved to win this match today and this trophy," Djokovic said. "Obviously disappointing to lose a match like this."

Djokovic, who won the Australian Open in January, will hold onto his No. 1 ranking for the time being. But it's clear to everyone who the top player in tennis is at the moment.

Nadal is 60-3 in 2013 with 10 titles, including at the French Open, which made him the first man with at least one Grand Slam trophy in nine consecutive seasons. The 27-year-old Spaniard's total of 13 major championships ranks third in the history of men's tennis, behind only Roger Federer's 17 and Pete

Sampras' 14.

Nadal has won a record eight titles at the French Open, two each at the U.S. Open and Wimbledon, and one at the Australian Open.

"Thirteen Grand Slams for a guy who is 27 years old is incredible," said Djokovic, who owns six himself. "Whatever he achieved so far in his career, everybody should respect, no question about it."

Nadal no longer wears the strips of white tape he once used to bolster his left knee, and the way he covered the court against Djokovic—switching from defense to offense in a blink - proved that while he says he still feels pain in that leg, he definitely does not have problems moving around.

"The hardest part is the pain, always," Toni Nadal, Rafael's uncle and coach, told The Associated Press. "You have pain, and you play. But the problem is you never know if you can run so fast, like before, or if you can play against the best players. From one day to (the next), it's difficult, always."

Nadal sure has managed to hide it well. He improved to 8-3 against Djokovic in Grand Slam matches, including a thriller of a semifinal at the French Open, which Nadal won 9-7 in the fifth set after trailing.

These two also played the longest Grand Slam final in history, a nearly six-hour struggle that left both needing to sit in chairs during the ceremony after Djokovic's victory at the 2012 Australian Open.

This time, Nadal was relentless from shot to shot, yes, and from point to point, too, but what might have been most impressive was the way he stayed steady when Djokovic recovered from a rough start and began asserting himself.

At the outset, Djokovic was his own worst enemy on many points, a touch or two

off the mark. Nadal claimed 12 of the last 14 points in the first set, with Djokovic looking almost bored.

The world saw this sort of listless, lackluster Djokovic two months ago in the final at Wimbledon, where Nadal had exited a Grand Slam tournament in the opening round for the only time in his career. That time, Djokovic went through a difficult semifinal - at 4:43, the longest in Wimbledon history—and barely put up much resistance in a straight-set loss to Andy Murray two days later.

In New York, Djokovic was coming off another four-hour semifinal victory, and the key stat in the first set Monday was that he made 14 unforced errors, 10 more than Nadal.

There were no surprising or innovative tactics from Nadal. In the simplest of terms, he reached nearly every ball Djokovic delivered, and Nadal's replies nearly never missed the intended spot, accented by his huge uppercut of a swing and loud grunts of "Aaaah!" By match's end, Djokovic had made 53 unforced errors, Nadal only 20.

"Credit to my opponent. He was making me run," Djokovic said. "I had my ups and downs."

The Serb's biggest ups came in the second set. Nadal was broken a grand total of once through his first six matches in the tournament—a string that reached 88 games by early in the final's second set. But with Djokovic raising his level, and gaining control of more of the many extended exchanges, he broke Nadal three times in a row.

"Novak was playing just amazing," Nadal said. "When Novak plays (at) that level, I am not sure if (anybody) can stop him."

The initial break came for a 4-2 lead in the second set, thanks to the crescendo of that

55-swing exchange. Djokovic used superb defense to elongate the point, tossing his body around to bail himself out repeatedly by blunting Nadal's violent strokes. When the memorable point ended, Djokovic bellowed and raised both arms, and thousands of fans rose to their feet, chanting his nickname, "No-le! No-le!"

Now Djokovic was energized, and Nadal was suddenly in a tad of trouble.

"I felt really tired after that point," Nadal said. "But my thinking was positive."

As Toni Nadal put it: "Rafael was always there, there, there. ... He was so strong in his mind. That was the difference."

The final momentum shift came with Nadal serving at 4-all in the third set. Djokovic earned three break points, thanks in part to a tremendous lob-volley and another point when Nadal slipped and tumbled to his backside.

But a quick forehand winner by Nadal, a forehand into the net by Djokovic on a 22-stroke point, and a 125 mph ace—Nadal's only one of the evening, it drew shouts of "Vamos!" from Uncle Toni—helped avoid another break.

"I didn't do anything I felt (was) wrong in these few points," Djokovic said. "He didn't make a mistake."

In the very next game, Nadal broke Djokovic's serve and, apparently, his will. When that set ended with Djokovic pushing a forehand long on a 19-shot point, Nadal screamed as he knelt down at the baseline, his racket on the court and his left fist pumping over and over and over.

"A really important set," Nadal called it later, "and a really special one."

Djokovic made one last serious stand, holding break points in the fourth set's first game, but Nadal saved those, then imme-

diately broke to go ahead 2-0.

Once again, Nadal withstood Djokovic's best and was on his way to another Grand Slam celebration.

Afterward, his newest silver

trophy at arm's reach, Nadal was asked about catching the only two men who've won more.

Nadal smiled and replied: "Let me enjoy today."

GIANTS

From Page 28

win over the Tigers in the first round, the Giants this time earned a convincing victory, holding the former to three hits and one run.

Jessie Brel started out on the mound for the Giants and gave up only one hit in 2.1 innings. He got three strikeouts and stranded three runners. With Brel pitching, the best that the Tigers could do was reach second base.

Franklin Lizama came in for Brel at the bottom of the third and began his duty with a strikeout before giving up two hits. Jake Flores and Ricardo Dela Cruz singled for the Tigers and the former went on to out his team on the board with a run off an error from catcher K.J. Deleon Guerrero. Lizama got his second strikeout to end

the inning and he continued to pitch early in the fifth, this time giving up no hits and walking three to preserve the Tigers 3-1 lead. The Tigers failed to gain another run after scoring in the third, as the Giants' defense was in place.

In contrast, the Tigers fumbled on defense several times, resulting to three early runs for the Giants at the top of the first inning. The Giants got three more runs off the Tigers' miscues in the sixth and seventh inning, while the latter's miseries continued, as Franco Nakamura closed the game for the Giants and recorded three strikeouts in 2.3 innings.

Nakamura, who also went 3-for-4 at bat and scored one run, got the two early strikeouts on Jose Lizama and Cedric Ada at the bottom of the seventh inning and the match quickly ended as T.J. Dela Cruz caught a fly ball from third batter Jake Flores.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES										
MLB STANDINGS										
AMERICAN LEAGUE										
East Division										
Boston	87	58	.600	—						
Tampa Bay	78	64	.549	7½						
Baltimore	77	66	.538	9						
New York	76	68	.528	10½						
Toronto	67	76	.469	19						
Central Division										
Detroit	82	62	.569	—						
Cleveland	77	66	.538	4½						
Kansas City	75	69	.521	7						
Minnesota	62	80	.437	19						
Chicago	58	85	.406	23½						
West Division										
Oakland	83	60	.580	—						
Texas	81	62	.566	2						
Los Angeles	67	76	.469	16						
Seattle	65	79	.451	18½						
Houston	48	96	.333	35½						
NATIONAL LEAGUE										
East Division										
Atlanta	86	57	.601	—						
Washington	74	69	.517	12						
Philadelphia	66	77	.462	20						
New York	64	78	.451	21½						
Miami	53	89	.373	32½						
Central Division										
St. Louis	83	60	.580	—						
Pittsburgh	82	61	.573	1						
Cincinnati	82	63	.566	2						
Milwaukee	62	80	.437	20½						
Chicago	61	82	.427	22						
West Division										
Los Angeles	84	59	.587	—						
Arizona	72	71	.503	12						
San Diego	65	77	.458	18½						
Colorado	66	79	.455	19						
San Francisco	65	79	.451	19½						
South										
Indianapolis	1	0	0	1.000	21	17				
Tennessee	1	0	0	1.000	16	9				
Houston	1	0	0	1.000	31	28				
Jacksonville	0	1	0	.000	2	28				
North										
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	21	24				
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	.000	9	16				
Baltimore	0	1	0	.000	27	49				
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	10	23				
West										
Kansas City	1	0	0	1.000	28	2				
Denver	1	0	0	1.000	49	27				
San Diego	0	1	0	.000	28	31				
Oakland	0	1	0	.000	17	21				
NATIONAL CONFERENCE										
East										
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	33	27				
Dallas	1	0	0	1.000	36	31				
Washington	0	1	0	.000	27	33				
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.000	31	36				
South										
New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	23	17				
Tampa Bay	0	1	0	.000	17	18				
Carolina	0	1	0	.000	7	12				
Atlanta	0	1	0	.000	17	23				
North										
Detroit	1	0	0	1.000	34	24				
Chicago	1	0	0	1.000	24	21				
Green Bay	0	1	0	.000	28	34				
Minnesota	0	1	0	.000	24	34				
West										
St. Louis	1	0	0	1.000	27	24				
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	34	28				
Seattle	1	0	0	1.000	12	7				
Arizona	0	1	0	.000	24	27				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS										
NFL STANDINGS										
AMERICAN CONFERENCE										
East										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA				
New England	1	0	0	1.000	23	21				

SONICS

From Page 28

one set tonight against Proa (4-2) and the second and last this Friday versus the COPSSA Warriors (0-5). Completing the U19 field are the Rollers (2-4) and Rebelholics (1-5) and all eight squads will advance to the single-elimination playoffs with the Top 4 teams to be paired against the bottom four in the first round.

The Sonics, who absorbed their lone loss this season at the hands of the S.J. Ol'Aces (49-39), are

likely to remain in the Top 2 after the 7-point win over the Ol'Aces. The defending champions led from start to finish, holding their ground against the Ol'Aces' repeated rallies in the second and fourth quarters and getting a big lift from Jack Aranda.

Down by 10 at the end of the first period, 11-21, the Ol'Aces managed to move within four at halftime, 25-29, after Jessie Olopai found his rhythm in the second canto. Olopai was scoreless in the first frame before drilling all his 8 points in the second quarter.

However, the Ol'Aces failed

to keep its momentum in the third period, while Jack Aranda unloaded three straight triples to start the second half and bring order back to the Sonics. Aranda went on to hit one more trey and finished the third quarter alone with 15 points, powering the Sonics to a double-digit advantage after 24 minutes of play, 49-37.

Despite trailing by twin digits, anew the Ol'Aces were not ready to give up and drew baskets from multiple players in the early part of the fourth to stay in the game. However, the Sonics would not be denied, as Aranda also got help from his four other

teammates to keep the lead and the win. Aranda was held to two free throws in the fourth, but Bryle Alegre and Nevin Salem stepped up, combining for 7 markers, while Jun Javier and Jed Villanueva added one field goal apiece.

Sonics 62 – Aranda 20, Salem 12, Alegre 10, Javier 9, Fera 7, Tudela 2, Flores 2, Villanueva 2.

Ol'Aces 55 – Kaipat 16, Darag 8, Olopai 8, Nakashima 7, Laniyo 6, Williams 2, Floresca 2, Moses 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-11, 29-25, 49-37, 62-55.

Shirley's Badminton Classic Singles Winners

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



From left, Class C singles champion Havikka Farro, runner-up Rowena Sison, Northern Marianas Badminton Association director Roger Vales, Shirley's Coffee Shop general manager Susan Macario, third placer Roxe Lazaro, and NMBA vice president Shirley Kim pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the Shirley's Badminton Classic last week at Nami in Kanoa Resort.



The Top 3 finishers in the men's Class C singles pose for a photo.



Class B champion Toshiko Obata, right, gets her gold medal from Northern Marianas Badminton Association director Roger Vales.



The Top 3 placers in the women's Class B singles pose for a photo.



The Top 3 finishers in the men's Class B singles are all smiles after getting their awards.



Men's Class A champion Andreau Galvez, second left, is joined by, from left, NMBA's Shirley Kim, Shirley's Susan Macario, third placer Macoi Aguda, and NMBA's Roger Vales for a group photo.



Northern Marianas Badminton Association director Roger Vales presents a gold medal to men's Class C champion Deether Edralin.



Women's Class A runner-up Janelle Pangiliinan, second left, and third placer Jen Cardinio, second right, pose for a photo with NMBA officials and sponsors.



The singles champions pose with Shirley's Coffee Shop general manager Susan Macario.

**Frenetic
Eagles beat
RG3, Redskins,
33-27**

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Saipan Tribune Sports



**Tillman takes
charge as
Orioles beat
Yankees, 4-2**

PAGE 25

28 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nadal tops Djokovic for 13th major title



By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP TENNIS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—With the 55th and last swing on the longest of many long points in the U.S. Open final, Rafael Nadal pushed a backhand into the net to get broken by Novak Djokovic.



It could have been the beginning of the end for many players.

Not for Nadal, who is as resilient as they come. A year after watching the Flushing Meadows title match on TV at home with a bad left knee, he is

fit as can be—and, just maybe, better than ever.

The No. 2-ranked Nadal emerged with his 13th Grand Slam title, and second at the U.S. Open, by withstanding No. 1 Djokovic's similar brand of hustle-to-every-ball style and pulling away Monday to a tense, taut 6-2, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 victory.

"This season is probably the most emotional one in my career. I felt that I did everything right to have my chance here," said Nadal, who dropped to the court and rolled over on his stomach, crying, after the last point. "I have to be almost perfect to win."

Hard to believe this is the same Nadal who missed seven months with a knee injury, but was able to cover every inch of the court, tracking down shot after shot from Djokovic.

Hard to believe this is the guy who used to be considered a clay-court specialist, but is 22-0 on hard courts in 2013.

"I never thought something like this could happen," Nadal said. "I feel very lucky about what happened since I came (back). It's true that I worked, but even like this you need luck to be where I am today."

He and Djokovic started in sunlight and finished at night, a

See NADAL on Page 26

Rafael Nadal, of Spain, bites the trophy while posing for photos after defeating Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, during the men's singles final of the 2013 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Monday, Sept. 9, 2013, in New York.

AP

Sonics keep lofty spot in U19 league



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Sonics' Nevin Salem, seen here pulling up for a floater against two S.J. Ol'Aces in an earlier game in the U19 division of the Rotary caging, scored 12 points in their 62-55 win over the Ol'Aces last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Defending champions Sonics remained in the Top 2 of the team standings in the U19 division of the 22nd Annual Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League, following a 62-55 victory over the Ol'Aces last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sonics improved to a 5-1 record, just one win behind the undefeated and division leader S.J. Ol'Aces (6-0). The Sonics have one more game left in the round-robin regular season, as its match with the Kagman Cougars (4-2) last Wednesday was rescheduled to give way another event at the gym.

The Ol'Aces (1-4) will play two more matches with the first
See SONICS on Page 26

Giants thump Tigers for fifth win



By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



The Giants cruised to a 6-1 victory over the Tigers in the 2nd Annual DYS/Triple A Youth Baseball League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Giants now have a 5-2 record for solo second place behind co-leaders Padres and Braves, who hold similar 6-1 cards. Completing the standings are the Yankees (3-4), the Tigers (2-5), Dodgers (1-5), and the Cardinals (0-5).

After escaping with an 8-7
See GIANTS on Page 26

The Giants' Jesse Brel, right, gets a tag from a teammate after getting a strikeout in their game against the Dodgers in the first round of the 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO